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COLONIAL REPORTS

# Basutoland

## 1953



LONDON: HER MAJESTY'S STATIONERY OFFICE

1954



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COMMONWEALTH RELATIONS OFFICE

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ANNUAL REPORT  
ON  
**BASUTOLAND**  
FOR THE YEAR

1953

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*Price 4s.*

H. M. S. O.  
LONDON  
1954

# CONTENTS

## PART I

	Page
CHAPTER I Review of the main events of the year 1953 . . .	3
CHAPTER II Development Schemes . . . . .	11

## PART II

CHAPTER I	Population . . . . .	16
CHAPTER II	Occupations, Wages and Labour Organization . . .	18
CHAPTER III	Public Finance and Taxation . . . . .	22
CHAPTER IV	Currency and Banking . . . . .	29
CHAPTER V	Commerce . . . . .	30
CHAPTER VI	Production :	
	1. Agriculture & Livestock Services . . . . .	32
	2. Co-operative Societies . . . . .	40
CHAPTER VII	Social Services :	
	1. Education . . . . .	43
	2. Public Health . . . . .	47
	3. Housing . . . . .	54
	4. Social Welfare . . . . .	55
CHAPTER VIII	Legislation . . . . .	56
CHAPTER IX	Justice, Police and Prisons :	
	1. Justice . . . . .	57
	2. Police . . . . .	63
	3. Prisons . . . . .	68
CHAPTER X	Public Utilities and Public Works . . . . .	72
CHAPTER XI	Communications . . . . .	73
CHAPTER XII	Press . . . . .	76

## PART III

CHAPTER I	Geography and Climate . . . . .	77
CHAPTER II	Early History . . . . .	78
CHAPTER III	Administration . . . . .	79
CHAPTER IV	Weights and Measures . . . . .	82
CHAPTER V	Reading List . . . . .	82
MAP OF BASUTOLAND . . . . .	Inside back cover	

The highest peak in Southern Africa, Thabana Ntlenyana, which may be translated the beautiful little mountain. The height is 11,425' (see page 13).



The picture above shows the peak and that below shows it (marked by an arrow) in relation to the surrounding countryside.



*Photographs by A. BISSCHOFF.*



*From left to right:*

MR. L. H. COLLETT, O.B.E., Soil Conservation Officer,

MR. J. G. M. KING, O.B.E., Director of Livestock & Agricultural Services,

MR. P. A. BOWMAKER, Principal Agricultural Officer,

the principal officers of the Agricultural Department, whose work is featured in the photographs of this report.

# PART I

## REVIEW OF THE MAIN EVENTS OF THE YEAR 1953

### CHAPTER ONE

#### I. CORONATION OF HER MAJESTY QUEEN ELIZABETH II

A delegation from Basutoland consisting of Chief Lerotholi Mojela, representing the Paramount Chief Regent, Bereng Seeiso, heir to the Paramountcy and Mr. Taelo Griffith, the Registrar of Basuto Courts, visited the United Kingdom to witness the Coronation: they were accompanied by a senior District Officer, Mr. F. G. Muirhead, who acted as conducting officer. Bereng Seeiso and Mr. Muirhead were privileged to see the ceremony from within Westminster Abbey.

The Coronation of Her Majesty Queen Elizabeth II provided an opportunity for the Basuto people to show their very real affection and loyalty for their Sovereign. The occasion was given a special significance in Basutoland by reason of the fact that, as in the days of Moshoeshoe when the Basuto were first granted protection by the British Crown, a Queen was once again upon the throne. The celebrations on the 2nd June, which was declared a public holiday, included parades at all district headquarters, followed by inter-school sports and choir competitions: in the evening bonfires were lit on hill tops, reminding many Basuto of a similar display in 1947 when Her Majesty visited Basutoland as Princess Elizabeth. The link with the Crown is dear to the heart of every Mosuto, and Coronation day was one of genuine rejoicing throughout the Territory.

#### 2. FINANCIAL AND ECONOMIC POSITION

The budget for 1952-53 predicted a deficit of £30,127. In the event the deficit was £33,638, but from this figure should be deducted a sum of £9,079 representing an amount due on account of Colonial Development and Welfare Schemes. As expected, there was some recession from the high level of prosperity enjoyed in the Territory during the previous year, owing principally to the fact that the exceptionally high wool prices ruling

during 1951-52 were not maintained in 1952-53. Generally, however, economic conditions were sound.

The accumulated surplus balance at 31st March, 1953, was £535,863.

### 3. AGRICULTURE AND FOOD PRODUCTION

The importance of agriculture and food production cannot be emphasized too strongly in Basutoland, where there are virtually no industries and no prospects of mineral development. This fact has long been realized by the Administration and the work already accomplished by the Agricultural Department is no mean achievement. The photographs contained in this report all concern the work of this department.

Plans have been prepared up to 1960 for that part of the agricultural development programme which is financed by Colonial Development and Welfare Funds. Acceptance of these plans will enable the department to expand its activities within the framework of its existing policy. This policy is concerned principally with soil conservation, the production of health-giving food crops, the maintenance of livestock of improved productive quality, research, the teaching of improved farming methods, and co-operation among agriculturalists.

In last year's report it was stated that "prospects for the new season's crop are good". In fact the Territory had a small crop surplus during the year. Importation of maize and maize products fell by 73 per cent compared with the figure for 1952. Exports of foodstuffs were increased during the year, with the exception of sorghums and malt, which suffered from premature ripening on account of early frosts. It is interesting to note that as far as can be ascertained from general observation wheat is entering much more into the diet of the Basuto.

In the field of soil conservation an important step was taken during the year when the Paramount Chief Regent ordered all landowners to mark out grass strips with their own oxen after beacons had been laid by the departmental staff; hitherto, Government has provided the oxen. This decision, apart from the value of introducing a measure of self-help, has resulted in an increased area of land being protected; for example 41,745 acres were terraced in the lowlands and 106,106 acres were protected by buffer strips in the foothill and mountain area, compared with 31,629 acres and 71,524 acres respectively the previous year. Other soil conservation measures taken during 1953 included the construction of 19 major dams with a total capacity of over 95,000,000 gallons, and the demarcation of 836 miles of dongas. This demarcation is carried out by beaconing each side of the donga a distance equivalent to its depth; within this area no cultivation is allowed and thus the size of the donga does not increase.

The Pilot Project scheme has made a very encouraging start. In consultation with the Paramount Chief and the local ward chief the area finally selected was the Tebetebeng valley in the Berea district; this valley is over 62 square miles in extent and has a population of approximately 8,000 people. The preparatory work which has so far been carried out

includes the erection of staff houses and offices, the construction of roads, the protection of land by soil conservation methods, the building of dams and the establishment of co-operative group farms. As far as possible, the "indirect approach" and the principles of giving assistance only where corresponding local effort is made, and of beginning from the people's own expressed wants, have been applied. It is the principles and objects of community development which underlie the whole approach to the Pilot Project.

All the initial capital works in the Maseru experiment station have been completed. These include soil conservation works, pig and poultry units, perimeter fencing, water supplies, and the erection of offices and a laboratory. Investigational work is being developed along two main lines, namely, research into soil fertility problems and the use of various crop types to discover those best suited to the three main ecological zones of the Territory; the eleven sub-stations established in the districts also assist in this work. As a result the department is now able to carry out more thorough research and investigation into the main agronomic problems of Basutoland.

Close to the Maseru Experiment Station the new Veterinary Headquarters has been built. The building comprises a laboratory, operating theatre, dispensary, drug stores, and offices. During the year Captain Graham Young of Kenilworth, Cape Town, presented a noted Arab stallion, Silver Eagle, to the Basutoland Administration. This magnificent gift has given an impetus to the equine improvement scheme, and arrangements have been made to ensure that suitable foals sired by Silver Eagle will in turn become available for stud purposes. The intention now is to breed back to the type once famous as the Basuto Pony – a hardy and sure-footed breed eminently suited to the rough and mountainous conditions of Basutoland.

Experiments have been carried out on local hides and skins to determine the merits and efficiency of a simplified method of suspension drying in the sun. Preliminary reports from tanners give promise that the system will be successful. If this is confirmed, the new method will be explained and taught to stock-owners and traders, through the medium of Veterinary Assistants, and with its general adoption it is likely that a great advance will have been achieved in the local hides and skins industry.

The tattooing and registration of all livestock has now been completed. It will continue in respect of the natural increase and new stock introduced. Livestock registers have been compiled and with the scheme in operation the limitation of stock, the control of disease, the dosing and dipping of small stock, the control of grazing and the detection of stock theft will be greatly facilitated.

Wool and Mohair regulations have been introduced which aim at improving the quality and classing of the wool and mohair exported and at increasing the confidence of the buyers.

By the gradual elimination of undesirable rams and the introduction of well-bred merino rams, the quality of the sheep and wool produced in Basutoland continues to improve: 923 well-bred merino rams were

imported during the year, bringing the total 12,572 since the inception of this scheme in 1935. Exports of wool amounted to 7,445,733 lb. valued at £1,489,147.

The total number of Angora rams imported for resale to flock owners during 1952-53 was 607. The Basuto themselves have recommended that unprofitable goats should be disposed of, and arrangements are being made for these to be sold for slaughter. Exports of mohair amounted to 1,137,841 lb. valued at £350,834.

In last year's report, it was stated that one mechanized unit will be operating in each of the nine districts on a group farming basis. Relying on the experience of others in this sphere, it has been decided to alter this scheme to the extent that four units are working in the Pilot Project area and one in the Matsieng area. The latter unit was introduced on the initiative of the Paramount Chief Regent, and operated on some of her land. The future of mechanized units operating in Basutoland will depend largely on the experience gained from the working of these five units which can be closely studied in their present areas.

Basuto who wished to enter the Agricultural Department have, hitherto, been trained at the various agricultural colleges in the Union of South Africa. These facilities are no longer available, and it has become necessary for the Territory to train its own staff. It is proposed to build a centre at the Maseru Experiment Station which will be used not only for training staff, but also for providing refresher courses for them and other interested persons, such as Basuto Administration officials.

#### 4. CO-OPERATIVE SOCIETIES

The total number of co-operative societies at the end of the year was 29. This figure is the same as at the end of the previous year, but its composition is different. There are now 11 Wool and Mohair Marketing Societies, compared with 10; 11 Consumers' Societies compared with 14; and seven Agricultural Societies compared with five. Three consumers' societies, which had long been defunct, were liquidated.

Wool and Mohair Marketing Societies continued to dominate the field. They experienced a rather disappointing wool season during 1952-53 and their exports declined by 38 per cent. Their 1953 mohair exports, however, were up by 46 per cent, and the 1953-54 wool season promises to be better than the previous one. It seems, therefore, that last season's decline in wool exports was a temporary set-back.

Consumers' Societies showed a modest, but significant improvement in spite of their decline in numbers. Of those remaining, four are firmly established, and two others show promise that they will flourish one day. The turnover for all consumers' societies during the financial year 1st October, 1952, to 30th September, 1953, was £6,747, compared with £3,750 for the eighteen month period 1st April 1951, to 30th September, 1952. (In 1952 the end of the financial year was changed from 30th March to 30th September.)

Agricultural societies continue to be enigmatic. Two new ones were registered towards the end of the year, and it is too early to say what their prospects are. Of the remaining five, two have operated as small wool marketing societies, one has been, in practice, a successful consumers' society, while the remaining two are not perceptibly alive. Nothing has yet been done about the marketing of crops, but it is hoped that a start will be made in 1954.

The progress of co-operation in Basutoland is slow, as it is bound to be. Nevertheless, there is no doubt that it is already established, and will progress. Most of the wool marketing societies are prosperous businesses with substantial reserves, possessing their own buildings and employing staff who have attained a fair degree of competence. It is noteworthy that the ten societies existing at the end of the financial year in September, 1953, had accumulated between them nearly £110,000 in capital and reserves. The accumulation of capital by co-operative societies may prove to be a factor of great social importance. The other types of society are much less impressive, but there is, at least, evidence that consumers' co-operation may eventually flourish. Understanding of co-operative principles is spreading among the people; what is lacking is understanding of co-operative business methods.

In general there is no room for complacency about co-operation in Basutoland, but there is reason to suppose that it has a very promising future.

## 5. BASUTO ADMINISTRATION

### (a) *Higher Education Levy*

Collection of the levy, which was approved by the Secretary of State in 1952, was continued in 1953, and by 31st March of that year, £38,477 had been collected. In addition to this, Government has made a subvention of £20,000, bringing the fund to £58,477. Collection is continuing, and it is expected to reach the target of £100,000 which the Basuto Administration has set itself.

### (b) *Basuto Courts*

The Court Reforms Committee reassembled during the year and modified some of the proposals it had previously made. The new proposals were approved, and arrangements were put in train for implementing them.

Courses of training were arranged for the prospective officials of the reformed courts, opportunity being given to outside persons as well as officials of the existing courts to receive training. Altogether 355 candidates received instruction in three groups, and of these 271 were appointed.

The new courts will start functioning on the 1st of January, 1954.

### (c) *Basuto National Treasury*

The Basuto National Treasury has recorded another year of successful working. Revenue amounted to £157,151 and expenditure to £144,807.

The accumulated surplus was £135,646 at 31st March, 1953, and of this, £60,000 has been appropriated to a Special Reserve Account.

## 6. EDUCATION

The school roll continues to increase, and, though the rise in numbers was not so marked as in the previous year, an increase of 2,256 over 1952 brought the total enrolment in African schools to 96,960. Since Territorial finance permitted only 10 additional staff for grant-aided schools, the pressure on existing staff has been increased still further.

During the year, two new junior secondary schools were completed from Colonial Development and Welfare funds, and these will, to some extent, ease the pressure on existing secondary institutions. Extensions and improvements to existing primary schools were continued from funds provided under Colonial Development and Welfare Scheme D. 758.

The Education Proclamation of 1947 was amended to regularise the closing of existing schools and the procedure to be adopted when permission is sought to reopen such schools. Revised regulations for the conduct of the departmental Standard VI Examinations were approved.

## 7. MEDICAL

The total accommodation in the nine Government Hospitals amounts to 390 beds. During the year 10,338 patients were admitted and 5,095 operations performed, an increase of 647 and 460 respectively compared with figures for 1952.

A blood bank has been started, the blood being flown to Maseru from Durban, Natal; blood serum is available at district hospitals.

It is expected that the main block and surgical block of the new 250 bed hospital in Maseru will be completed towards the end of 1954.

A health centre has been started at Semonkong in the mountain area with an Assistant Medical Officer in charge.

A four weeks' flea and rodent survey in certain mountain areas of Basutoland, including the Orange River valley, was undertaken jointly by the Basutoland and Union Health Departments; a similar survey of the lowlands of Basutoland is planned for 1954. The object of these surveys is to complete a general assessment of rodents and fleas of southern Africa, and thus to trace reservoirs of zootic plague. Final reports are not yet available, but it is interesting to note that several specimens were collected of the ice rat, *Myotomis*, which is extremely rare in the Union of South Africa.

No major epidemics occurred in the Territory during the year.

## 8. POLICE

The buildings at the eight mountain posts were all completed by the end of 1953, although one was damaged extensively by weather and will be resited and rebuilt in 1954. Four of these posts are now operating as Police Stations, maintaining all essential records ; the remaining four are gradually being set up on similar lines. The work dealt with by these stations has shown a steady increase due, largely, to the growing confidence in them of the general public.

The number of "medicine murders" reported during the year was 13.

Convictions for all crimes for 1953 totalled 3,818, an increase of 190 compared with the previous year's figures.

In addition to normal recruit training at the Police Training School, four other training courses were held. These covered Refresher, Promotion and Prosecutors' Courses. The last was a new departure, and provided training for members of the Bechuanaland Protectorate and Swaziland Police Forces, in addition to the Basutoland Mounted Police. On this occasion three Non-Commissioned-Officers from each of the other Territories attended the course. The standard of work was high, and a credit to the trainees. It has already been noticed that the presentation of cases before District Courts has improved.

Despite the absence of a Training Reserve, districts have maintained the volume and efficiency of their work. The increased tempo of training has been welcomed as a positive means of efficiently combating the increasing volume of crime reported.

## 9. PRISONS

During the year construction work on the new Maseru Central Prison continued. The third wing was almost completed, the fourth and final wing started, the Senior Gaoler's house erected, and waterborne sanitation installed.

The numbers of persons sentenced to imprisonment decreased, but the daily average of convicts in prison, increased by 48 to 894. This apparent paradox is accounted for by the large number of long term prisoners.

## 10. POST OFFICE

A new Post Office building at Quthing was opened during the year and rapid progress was made with the construction of a new Post Office at Butha Buthe, which is expected to be ready for occupation early in the new year.

The replacement of the old equipment in the Maseru telephone exchange by new and modern apparatus was carried out during the year, and the recabing of the Maseru township was completed.

The reconstruction of the telephone trunk route between Teyateyaneng and Butha-Buthe has now been completed up to mile 20.

Three new postal agencies were established during the year.

## II. MOUNTAIN MOTOR ROAD

This road is being constructed in the mountain area in the centre of Basutoland to allow for closer administration and better development. It has reached mile 35 (50 miles from Maseru), but work is progressing more slowly than had been anticipated owing to the very hard rock formations which have been encountered.

## 12. APPOINTMENT OF BASUTO TO HIGHER POSITIONS IN THE SERVICE

### *Senior Service*

Mr. J. T. Mohapeloa, M. B. E., has been appointed to the Secretariat as an Assistant Secretary.

### *Junior Service*

The following appointments have been made on the higher grade scale (£325x20-565) :

Mr. L. Mabathoana :	Clerk/Interpreter, Judicial Department.
Mr. S. Mapetla :	Clerk/Interpreter, Judicial Department.
Mr. D. Mochochoko :	Assistant Agricultural and Livestock Officer.
Chief N. J. Molapo :	Administrative Assistant (attached to the Agricultural Department).
Mr. L. S. Moletsane :	Senior Clerk, Secretariat.
Mr. E. S. Ralebitso :	Assistant Education Officer.
Mr. E. J. Thamae, :	Senior Clerk, Leper Settlement.

## 13. HONOURS

During 1953, the following Honours were conferred on residents of Basutoland:

### *C.M.G.*

Mr. G. J. Armstrong, C. B. E., Deputy Resident Commissioner and Government Secretary.

### *O.B.E.*

Mr. J. H. Belderson, Principal Auditor of the High Commission Territories.

Mr. J. G. M. King, M. B. E., Director of Livestock and Agricultural Services.

### *British Empire Medal*

Mr. J. Ntsukunyane, Mission School Teacher.

*Colonial Police Medal*

Lieutenant B. R. Sands, Basutoland Mounted Police.

*Queen's Medal for Chiefs in Silver*

Chief Nkuebe Nkau Lerotholi, Phamong.

*Certificate of Honour and Badge*

Mrs. E. Boloko, Trained African Nurse.

Mr. E. B. Ramaqabe, Supervisor of Schools.

The High Commissioner, on behalf of Her Majesty the Queen, approved the award of 31 Coronation Medals, one Police Meritorious Service Medal, and 8 Police Long Service and Good Conduct Medals.

## CHAPTER TWO

## DEVELOPMENT SCHEMES

Those schemes which are financed from the revenues of the Territory are described elsewhere in the Report.

The table below shows the schemes in operation which are financed from the Colonial Development and Welfare Fund.

<i>No of Schemes</i>	<i>Title of Scheme</i>	<i>Initiated during financial year</i>	<i>Total spent to 31.3.53 plus anticipated ex- penditure to 31.3.54</i>
D.603A/B	Soil Conservation Measures.	1946-47	£325,068
D.684	Water Supplies, Maseru.	1946-47	68,000
D.692	District Water Supplies . .	1946-47	11,357
D.758	Education . . . . .	1947-48	69,083
D.842	Medical and Health . .	1948-49	88,811
D.1025	Improvements to Main Roads	1949-50	24,941
D.1025A	Orange River Bridge . .	1950-51	6,346
D.1050	Mountain Motor Road . .	1949-50	178,327
D.1436	Mountain Dispensaries . .	1950-51	3,430
D.1479	Scholarships . . . . .	1950-51	2,849
D.1488	Topographical Survey . .	1950-51	26,071
D.1504	Orange River Survey . .	1950-51	1,506
D.1765	Pilot Project Scheme. . .	1952-53	52,008
D.1845	Experiment Station . . .	1952-53	15,547
R.495	Soil Fertility Worker . .	1951-52	2,268
	Total . . . . .		£ 875,612

Progress during the year was as follows :

# I. AGRICULTURE

## Soil Conservation

*Schemes 603A/B.* Progress made in the principal sections of this work is shown in the following table :

<i>Measure</i>	<i>Prior to Dec. 1953</i>	<i>During the year</i>	<i>Total to Dec. 1953</i>
Area terraced lowlands (acres) . . . . .	338,209	41,745	379,954
Length of terrace (miles). . . . .	19,676	2,288	21,964
Bufferstrips-mountain and foothills (acres) . . . . .	402,520	106,106	508,626
Diversion Furrows mount- ain and foothills (acres) . . . . .	112,626	16,815	129,441
Diversion Furrows moun- tain and foothills (yards) . . . . .	2,654,199	379,901	3,034,100
Dams constructed . . . . .	379	19	398
Trees planted . . . . .	914,929	15,913	930,842
Dongas beaconed (miles) . . . . .	3,645	863	4,508

Weather conditions influence the speed and progress of construction work. After five consecutive years when the weather was not helpful, a good year can now be recorded except for a long and severe winter in the mountain areas which hindered the buffer strip work there.

The average cost of land terraced was 12·6s. per acre, a decrease of 3·6s. per acre compared with 1952.

The average cost of installing diversion furrows was 4·4s. per acre, the same as last year.

The average cost of constructing buffer or grass strips was 1·3s. per acre, a decrease of 0·18s. per acre compared with last year. The decrease is due in part to a new rule by the Paramount Chief Regent that all land-owners should assist in this work by using their own oxen ; these had been provided previously by Government. The increase in the area protected compared with last year, amounted to over 36,000 acres.

There were 19 major dams constructed with a total capacity of 95,438,000 gallons of water. Most of this work was done with heavy machinery, oxen being used exclusively on small gully banks. Nearly 16,000 trees were planted around these dams which had been fenced in. The planting of trees for firewood is the responsibility of the Basuto Administration.

The beaconing of dongas has proceeded satisfactorily. Ploughing up to the edges has been stopped, but restriction of grazing has been found to be more difficult to enforce. In the areas where stock have been kept out, there has been a remarkable recovery in all types of vegetation. These dongas will soon become stabilized and experiments in the construction of arch weirs are progressing, as they will play an important role in future donga reclamation work.

The tractor and vehicle repair shop organization was overhauled during the year with the result that maintenance work has improved greatly.

### *Topographical Survey*

*Scheme D.1488.* Horizontal control has been completed and observations for vertical control are proceeding satisfactorily.

Preliminary sheets for the whole of Basutoland have been received or are in process of production.

All ground control work is expected to be finished early in 1954.

At the time of going to print, it was discovered that the highest peak in Southern Africa was Thabana-Ntlenyana in the Mokhotlong district of Basutoland. It is by the sources of the Sehonghong and Mokhotlong rivers. The height is 11,425'.

### *Pilot Project Scheme, Experiment Station and Soil Fertility Worker*

The progress of these schemes is described in chapter one, section three.

## 2. PUBLIC WORKS

### *Roads and Bridges*

*Scheme D. 1025.* Work on the improvement of main roads in the lowlands is continuing satisfactorily. The emphasis is being placed on bridging streams and rivers which have, in the past, held up traffic for considerable periods after storms. In addition, minor realignments and improvements are being made to the approaches to bridge structures to protect them from flood waters.

### *Mountain Road*

*Scheme D. 1050.* Expenditure on this road has now reached over £177,000. Work is progressing slower than had been anticipated due to the very hard rock formations which have been encountered. The road-head is now at mile 35 (50 miles from Maseru) and the construction camp has been moved to this point on the banks of the Likalaneng river. Sixteen miles of road must still be constructed to reach Marakabei on the banks of the Senqunyane.

### *Maseru Hospital*

*Scheme D. 842.* Building operations started in January. By the end of the year the main entrance, the administration, operating and X-ray block and a surgical block of 56 beds were completed except for internal finishing : there are, also, 16 private wards in these two blocks which are expected to be ready for occupation in the latter half of 1954. Of the money provided for building this hospital, a certain amount is being put aside for the purchase of equipment.

## 3. MEDICAL AND HEALTH

### *Training of African Medical Officers*

*Scheme D. 525.* Of the five Africans who received medical training under this scheme, two are still in Government service and doing excellent work.

Dr. S. T. Makenete is in charge of the Butha-Buthe hospital. Dr. V. R. Ntšekhe, appointed Medical Officer in January, 1953, is stationed at the Teyateyaneng Hospital.

### *Medical and Health*

*Scheme D. 842.* Alterations to the Mafeteng Hospital and to the Leribe Dispensary were completed during the year.

*The Semonkong Health Centre:* Dr. K. M. Franziss, who was previously in private practice at Semonkong, was appointed Assistant Medical Officer in charge of the new Health Centre from the 1st September, 1953. Existing buildings have been purchased from Dr. Franziss and incorporated in the plan for the Health Centre which is expected to be completed soon.

*Marakabei Health Centre:* Until the new mountain road reaches this area, the project has been postponed in favour of a health centre at Mashai.

*Mashai Health Centre:* Here again, it was impossible to find a suitable building supervisor and the project has been deferred until April, 1954, when the Public Works Department's Building Overseer, to be stationed at Qacha's Nek, will control the erection of this health centre.

### *Mountain Dispensaries*

*Scheme D. 1436.* The Mountain Dispensary at Nohana's, near Ketane, is in the charge of a dual certificated African Nurse and is proving of great benefit to the local people living in this remote mountain area.

Since the building of the Sekake Mountain Dispensary was temporarily stopped in 1952 because of inadequate water supplies and difficulties with the contractor, the whole scheme dealing with Mountain Dispensaries has been under revision.

4. E~~X~~D U C A T I O N*Education*

*Scheme D. 758.* Under the scheme for the improvement of school buildings, a total of £5,034 was paid to missions on a £ for £ basis in respect of additions or improvements to 75 primary schools. £4,000 was spent on the erection of two junior secondary schools. The payment of equipment grants to mission schools and of salary grants for Educational Secretaries continued.

*Scholarships*

*Scheme D. 1479.* Two students studying veterinary Science at Edinburgh continued to be financed from this scheme. Another student taking a medical degree at the University of the Witwatersrand, and whose studies have been financed from this scheme, successfully completed his course at the end of the year.

## PART II

### CHAPTER ONE

### POPULATION

Population figures for Basutoland show a rapid increase during the early part of this century. In 1911, the total population was estimated at 401,000 and in 1936 at 559,000. This trend has been recently halted as shown in the figure of 561,000 given in the 1946 Census. These figures do not include absentees. The increase was partly due to immigration especially of Tembus from the nearby districts of the Cape Province. In addition, it was the feeling of some Basuto chiefs that their importance would be enhanced by increasing the number of their subjects.

In 1949-50 an agricultural survey was carried out, during the course of which the total population of Basutoland including absentees was estimated to be approximately 660,000. However, different methods of calculation were used and it would not be correct to compare this figure with those of previous population censuses. The next population census is expected to be carried out in 1956.

It is generally agreed that the small increase of population between 1936 and 1946 is not due to faulty enumeration but to certain economic factors and the lure of industry in the neighbouring territory of the Union. It appears that many Basuto are gradually discarding their feudal mode of life and that education, the attractions of urban amenities and the opportunity to earn, make it inevitable that they should be drawn to the Union.

The slight increase in the figures of the European population in 1946 (1,689) as compared with 1936 (1,434) (apart from natural increase) is due to three factors: the employment by Government of a larger European staff, an increase in trading activities, and the arrival of more missionaries in the Territory. Over the last 25 years there has been an increase of 86 Europeans.

The present distribution of the African population shows a distinct relationship to the physical structure of the country. The bulk of the population is still concentrated in the lowlands, and in these areas saturation point seems for the time being to have been reached. The mountains were until recently almost entirely reserved for grazing, and even the concentration of population which now exists in the rich valleys near the 'Maletsunyane Falls dates back only about 25 years.

With the increasing pressure on the land in the lowlands the people extended their cultivation up the river valleys, and, as these were in turn found to be inadequate, up on to the mountain slopes.

The result is that to-day there are scattered settlements throughout the mountain area of Basutoland. Land has been ploughed which is unsuitable for cultivation and which will quickly become eroded. The Paramount Chief has, therefore, issued orders, firstly that these scattered settlements shall be grouped together to form villages, and secondly that no new land shall be ploughed without her permission. Permission to plough new lands is only given after consultation with the Agricultural Department.

No reliable estimate of the total population and its racial groups can be given for 1953, or the two years previous to that. The table below gives the figures from the 1946 Census.

#### I. AFRICANS IN THE TERRITORY

<i>District</i>	<i>Males</i>	<i>Females</i>	<i>Persons</i>	<i>1936</i>	<i>Difference</i>
Butha-Buthe .	14,950	20,268	35,218	34,869	+ 349
Leribe . . . .	42,519	56,136	98,655	98,376	+ 1,279
Berea . . . .	25,123	32,709	57,832	55,522	+ 2,310
Maseru . . . .	46,605	59,115	105,720	108,237	— 2,517
Mafeteng . . .	30,989	38,312	69,301	70,864	— 1,563
Mohale's Hoek .	29,055	36,895	65,950	65,309	+ 641
Quthing . . . .	19,888	25,784	45,672	44,552	+ 1,120
Qacha's Nek . .	19,847	24,954	44,801	46,132	— 1,331
Mokhotlong . .	17,368	20,772	38,140	36,412	+ 1,728
Total . . . . .	246,344	314,945	561,289	559,273	+ 2,016

#### 2. EUROPEANS IN THE TERRITORY

<i>District</i>	<i>Males</i>	<i>Females</i>	<i>Persons</i>	<i>1936</i>	<i>Difference</i>
Butha-Buthe . .	15	17	32	50	— 18
Leribe . . . . .	77	94	171	154	+ 17
Berea . . . . .	59	49	108	94	+ 14
Maseru . . . . .	378	359	737	583	+ 154
Mafeteng . . . .	108	110	218	189	+ 29
Mohale's Hoek .	87	99	186	150	+ 36
Quthing . . . . .	57	46	103	106	— 3
Qacha's Nek . . .	55	44	99	82	+ 17
Mokhotlong . . .	21	14	35	26	+ 9
Total . . . . .	857	832	1,689	1,434	+ 255

## 3. ASIATICS AND COLOURED S

<i>District</i>	<i>Males</i>	<i>Females</i>	<i>Persons</i>	<i>1936</i>	<i>Difference</i>
Butha-Buthe . . .	108	86	194	185	+ 9
Leribe . . .	100	104	204	337	—133
Berea . . .	55	31	86	199	— 33
Maseru . . .	82	75	157	331	—174
Mafeteng . . .	57	53	110	248	—138
Mohale's Hoek . .	20	29	49	233	—184
Quthing . . .	16	18	34	70	— 36
Qacha's Nek . . .	21	20	41	65	— 24
Mokhotlong . . .	1	—	1	16	— 15
Total . . .	460	416	876	1,604	—728

The African population is not required to register births and deaths and therefore no figures are available.

## CHAPTER TWO

OCCUPATIONS, WAGES AND LABOUR  
ORGANIZATION

## I. OCCUPATIONS

The principal occupations of the Basuto are agriculture and stock farming, and for these pursuits the country provides all the essentials. Its climate favours the development of a healthy, hardy mountain people and it is free from the chief scourges of Africa : there are few mosquitoes and no malaria or tsetse fly. It is also free from many of the forms of cattle disease which plague countries nearer sea level.

However, primitive methods of farming have made the soil less productive and, through hastening erosion, have actually decreased the area of arable land. At the same time the population has increased under the "Pax Britannica" so that there are more people to feed but less food is produced than before. The measures which are being taken to conserve the soil and to make it more productive are described in chapter six.

As the average family has not enough land to support it, it is necessary for the men to leave home periodically to look for work. There are no industries in Basutoland besides the printing industries of the Paris Evangelical Missionary Society and the Roman Catholic Mission which employ about 80 and 40 Basuto respectively. An increasing number are, however, taking part in trading activities and some are interest-

ing themselves in weaving. Apart from employment in the Government Service or at trading stores, there is little work to be found in the Territory. It is, therefore, necessary for Basuto to leave the Territory to work in the Union of South Africa.

Until recently most of the men went to the gold mines but more and more are now finding work in other industries on the Witwatersrand and surrounding areas. It seems probable, however, that this trend will be checked. Local industries on the Rand are now required normally to obtain their labour from the large numbers of locally born unemployed Africans who live in the locations on the Reef, with the result that Africans from outside these areas, such as Basuto, will only be able to obtain employment in the mines.

The table below shows the number of passes issued in the last three years to Basuto leaving the Territory for employment in the Union of South Africa. In fact there are more Basuto employed on the mines than the following figures indicate due to the number who remain at the mines from previous years.

<i>Mines</i>	<i>1951</i>	<i>1952</i>	<i>1953</i>
Gold . . . . .	25,921	25,612	25,504
Coal	3,655	5,782	5,398
Diamond . . . . .	304	1,329	473
Manganese . . . . .	76	157	183
Other Mines . . . . .	1,048	1,473	2,079
Total Mines . . . . .	31,004	34,353	33,637
Agricultural . . . . .	7,105	4,771	4,408
Miscellaneous. . . . .	26,732	24,608	23,605
Total . . . . .	64,841	63,732	61,650

The Chamber of Mines, Johannesburg, is represented by the Native Recruiting Corporation Ltd., with its local Superintendent and head office in Maseru, and branch offices in other district head-quarter stations. The corporation recruits either under contract or under the Assisted Voluntary System.

The contract, which is attested before a Government officer, binds the recruit to work in a certain mine for a certain number of shifts at given rates of wage, according to the class of work performed. Basuto, incidentally, are usually employed on the more difficult and better paid tasks, such as shaft sinking. The majority are employed underground.

Most recruits for the mines prefer to engage under the Assisted Voluntary System. By this system the recruit is not attested for work on any particular mine, but agrees to proceed to Johannesburg for work on any of the mines enumerated in a schedule. On arrival he is given three weeks in which to choose his mine.

Labour is also recruited by other approved labour agents for work on coal, diamond, and manganese mines, farms, and for other employment. All employers for whom labour agents recruit are first approved by Government.

The majority of Basuto recruited for the mines defer a portion of their earnings for payment to them on their return to Basutoland and in 1953 the total amount of deferred wages paid out through recruiting organizations was £196,145. Many also remit money to their families through the organizations and in the year under review this amounted to £139,918. At the same time it is considered that the mine recruits are largely responsible for the moneys sent from the Union to be paid through Basutoland Post Offices. In 1953 the value of money orders and postal orders paid out in this way amounted to approximately £100,000.

Prior to 1932, if tax collection was bad in any year, in Basutoland an officer was despatched to the Rand to undertake a field collection. In 1932 a temporary office was opened in Johannesburg and in 1933 a permanent office was established: within a few years the Bechuanaland Protectorate and Swaziland decided to join the venture and the office received its present name of Agency for the High Commission Territories. The most important function of the Agency was the collection of tax but it soon assumed the additional duties of general welfare work and now deals with the domestic affairs of the Basuto on the Witwatersrand, encouraging them to save money, giving them home news, counteracting as far as possible the temptations of their environment, repatriating those who are indigent and generally giving advice and assistance whenever required to do so. The officer in charge of the Agency, that is the Agent for the High Commission Territories, has recently been appointed Regional Employment Commissioner for the High Commission Territories and in this capacity deals with requests by Basuto for permission to enter the prescribed and controlled areas in the Union of South Africa. He also deals with requisitions by employers for Basuto labour.

Sub-Agencies have been opened at Springs and Randfontein and more recently at Welkom, the centre of the new Orange Free State goldfields.

Recruiting is permitted only for those concerns which provide good living and working conditions. The Agent for the High Commission Territories and his officers spend much of their time inspecting conditions on the mines and elsewhere. During the year visits were paid to as many centres as possible where the concentration of labour justified this. Partly as a result of these visits tax collections by the Agency staff for the period 1st April to 31st December 1953 (i.e. the first nine months of the financial year) amounted to £110,354 compared with £87,401 for the corresponding period in the previous year. This record collection has been rendered possible by close liaison with Union Government officials who have been undertaking a national registration of Africans. Many tax defaulters of long standing have been detected and in the majority of cases it has been possible to collect a considerable proportion of arrear tax owing.

## 2. WAGES AND CONDITIONS OF EMPLOYMENT

The few African wage earners who find employment in the Territory may be classified as follows :

- (a) Domestic servants, earning from £1 10s. to £5 a month. Food and lodging are usually provided in addition.
- (b) Labourers, employed mainly on roads and other public works, soil conservation work, etc., at rates from 2s. 3d. to 2s. 9d. per day. Public Works labourers work a 54-hour week.
- (c) Foremen, earning from £5 to £8 a month.
- (d) Artisans, earning from £8 to £17 a month.
- (e) Trading store employees earning from £5 to £15 a month.

In considering these wages it should be remembered that every married man is entitled to lands on which to grow food, free occupation of a site for his house, and communal grazing rights for his cattle, and that the staple food of the average Mosuto of the labouring class is mealie porridge, samp and beans.

## 3. COST OF LIVING

The following table shows the fluctuations in prices of various commodities since 1951 and indicates the prewar price :

Commodity	1938		1951		1952		1953	
	s.	d.	s.	d.	s.	d.	s.	d.
Mealie meal per lb. . . .		1½		3		3		3
Beans per lb. . . . .		3		5		8		5
Samp per lb. . . . .		1½		3		3¾		3
Bread per 2lb. loaf . . .		4		8		9½		9½
Flour per lb. . . . .		2		3½		3¾		5
Rice per lb. . . . .		4	Unobtainable		1	5	1	5
Oatmeal per lb. . . . .		3	1	—	1	—	1	2
Tea per lb. . . . .	2	3	6	3	6	9	6	7
Coffee per lb. . . . .	1	9	5	4	5	4	5	11
Sugar per lb.. . . .		3		5		5		5½
Jam per lb. . . . .		5	1	11	1	10	1	10
			to 3	6	to 3	6	to 3	8
Potatoes per lb. . . . .		1		3		3		4
Butter per lb. . . . .	1	2	2	9	3	2	3	4½
Cheese per lb. . . . .	1	2	2	4	2	8	2	10
Eggs per doz. . . . .	1	6	1	9	2	6	2	6
			to 4	3	to 4	6	to 4	6
Milk per gall. . . . .	2	—	2	9	2	9	2	9
Bacon per lb.. . . .	1	5	3	—	3	6	3	6
Beef per lb. . . . .		6	2	—	2	2	2	2
Mutton per lb. . . . .		7	1	8	2	6	2	6

#### 4. TRADE UNIONS

It was a necessary condition for obtaining assistance from the Colonial Development Fund that facilities should be provided for the establishment and activities of trade unions. There had previously been no need for such legislation in Basutoland owing to the total lack of industries.

The Basutoland Trade Unions and Trade Disputes Proclamation, which was promulgated in 1942, has provided for the registration and regulation of trade unions in Basutoland and for the orderly settlement of trade disputes.

By the end of 1953, the Basutoland Typographical Workers Union, the Basutoland Commercial Distributive Workers Union and the Basutoland Union of Trained Artisans had been registered.

#### 5. LABOUR LEGISLATION

The following labour legislation is in force in the Territory :

Proclamation No. 37 of 1936 enables the High Commissioner to regulate the level of wages paid to natives in any occupation or in any area within the Territory. A minimum wage level may be prescribed by Notice in the Official Gazette.

Proclamation No. 71 of 1939 regulates the conditions of employment of women, young persons and children in industrial undertakings, and prohibits the employment of any person under the age of 12 years in any such undertaking, whether public or private, unless it shall be owned by that child's parents.

Proclamations No. 5 of 1942, 40 of 1943, 4 of 1951 and 43 of 1951 amended and consolidated the law relating to the recruitment and contracts for the employment of Basuto for work in the Union of South Africa.

Proclamation No. 4 of 1948 makes provision for the payment of compensation to workmen employed in Basutoland who suffer injury or death or contract disease in the course of their employment.

### CHAPTER THREE

## PUBLIC FINANCE AND TAXATION

Including receipts and expenditure on account of Colonial Development and Welfare Schemes, the revenue for the financial year 1952-53 totalled £1,368,835 compared with expenditure amounting to £1,402,474. The gross deficit of £33,638 was reduced to £23,599 by the deduction of £9,079

representing appreciation of the Territory's investments when revalued at the close of the financial year. The net deficit for the year reduced the general revenue balance at 31st March, 1953 to £535,863.

Expenditure on Colonial Development and Welfare projects was £163,475 and funds totalling £180,379 were received from Her Majesty's Treasury in this respect. A further sum of £5,019 is due from the Treasury to meet expenditure incurred on certain projects.

The Estimates as originally framed in 1951 provided for a deficit of £30,127 for the year.

The final outturn approximated closely to the anticipated deficit although total Revenue exceeded the estimated figure of £1,246,322 by £122,513, due mainly to an increase in Customs and Excise duty of £32,457 and Income Tax of £44,400. Increased Customs and Excise duty was due to certain increases in the Union of South Africa of Customs duties, and new Excise duties on soft drinks and sweets, of which the Territory receives a share under an agreement with that Government. Increase in Income Tax collections was due to a backlog of collections from the previous year. On the other hand Wool and Mohair export duty fell short of the anticipated figure of £150,000 by £26,703 due to the estimates being prepared before a reduction of 1*d.* a pound was made on the 1st January, 1952. Against this increased revenue, expenditure exceeded the estimated figure of £1,147,214 by £105,079.

The revised position at 31st March, 1954, is anticipated to be as follows :

Accumulated Surplus Balance at 31.3.52		£560,422
Add Appreciation of Investments . . .		9,079
		<hr/>
		£569,501
Less Deficit for the year 1952-53 . . .		33,638
		<hr/>
Accumulated Surplus Balance at 31.3.53		£ 535,863
Estimated (revised) Expenditure 1953-54	£1,207,476	
Estimated (revised) Revenue 1953-54	1,207,600	
	<hr/>	<hr/>
Estimated Surplus for year 1953-54 .	124	
Add amount due on account of Colonial Development and Welfare Schemes	5,018	5,142
		<hr/>
Estimated Surplus Balance at 31.3.54.		£541,005
		<hr/>

## I. REVENUE AND EXPENDITURE

The following is a statement of Revenue and Expenditure for the last three years :

*Comparative Statement of Revenue*

<i>Head</i>	<i>1950-51</i>	<i>1951-52</i>	<i>1952-53</i>
	£	£	£
Native Tax . . . . .	284,301	291,643	284,092
Customs and Excise . . . . .	343,728	391,415	416,457
Posts and Telegraphs . . . . .	30,291	32,591	35,502
Licences . . . . .	16,638	19,466	19,313
Fees of Court and Office . . . . .	4,013	12,796	12,683
Judicial Fines. . . . .	5,812	8,737	6,950
Income Tax . . . . .	158,629	250,596	189,400
Poll Tax . . . . .	1,011	2,254	2,137
Fees for Services Rendered . . . . .	24,644	18,615	23,895
Interest . . . . .	11,897	12,036	14,013
Wool and Mohair Export Duty . . . . .	47,298	107,268	123,297*
Miscellaneous. . . . .	39,625	71,900	55,995
Rent from Government Property . . . . .	20,716	17,386	17,866
	988,603	1,236,703	1,201,600
Colonial Development and Welfare Grants. . . . .	89,863	190,009	167,235
	1,078,466	1,426,712	1,368,835

\* Wool and Mohair Export Duty was increased from  $\frac{1}{2}d.$  to  $1d.$  a pound from 1.10.49 and to  $4d.$  a pound during September, 1951. It was reduced to  $3d.$  with effect from 1st January, 1952.

*Comparative Statement of Expenditure*

<i>Head</i>	<i>1950-51</i>	<i>1951-52</i>	<i>1952-53</i>
	£	£	£
Public Debt . . . . .	728	1,637	2,335
Resident Commissioner .	3,772	6,197	6,092
Agricultural and Veteri- nary Services . . . . .	89,925	90,535	69,994
Audit . . . . .	3,933	3,605	3,058
Central Stores. . . . .	23,539	12,734	5,848
Co-operative Societies .	2,924	3,368	4,398
District Administration	52,996	52,013	56,260
Education. . . . .	156,267	156,680	184,640
High Commissioner's Office. . . . .	28,459	30,271	31,155
Legal . . . . .	7,581	8,239	13,170
Leper Settlement. . . .	31,659	29,286	27,283
Medical . . . . .	90,115	91,729	95,379
Miscellaneous. . . . .	45,599	74,788	97,719
Native Administration .	101,182	111,293	106,071
Pensions and Gratuities .	62,843	58,935	61,832
Police . . . . .	102,976	97,733	94,496
Prisons . . . . .	31,025	33,911	42,081
Post and Telegraphs. . .	34,117	36,672	41,603
Public Relations . . . .	531		
Public Works Depart- ment . . . . .	25,366	24,368	28,132
Public Works Recurrent.	48,247	62,944	57,486
Public Works Extraordi- nary . . . . .	19,306	78,762	96,388
Rand Agencies . . . . .	18,954	23,835	40,907
Secretariat . . . . .	12,990	11,757	14,463
Subventions . . . . .			46,666*
Treasury . . . . .	9,411	10,285	11,543
Welfare . . . . .	471		
Anomalies Committee .	1,620		
Colonial Development and Welfare Schemes	1,006,536	1,111,577	1,238,999
	102,087	185,002	163,475
Total . . . . .	1,108,623	1,296,579	1,402,474

\* Included under "Miscellaneous" prior to 1952-53.

LIABILITIES				ASSETS			
Deposits	£	s.	d.	Cash	£	s.	d.
Basuto National Treasury	90,000	0	0	With Standard Bank.	9,394	9	0
Basuto National Treasury							
Matsema Levy	309	17	0	" Sub-Accountants.	38,903	10	1
				" Crown Agents	977	7	7
Bechuanaland Protectorate				" Joint Colonial Fund	386,000	0	0
and Swaziland Tax Account	3,396	2	9	Investments:			
Higher Education Levy	944	15	0	Surplus Balances			
Miscellaneous	28,472	0	1	Central Government	151,596	16	6
Prisoner's Property	1,010	2	3	Basuto National Treasury	90,000	0	0
					241,596	16	6
Special Funds:							
Colonial Development and				Basutoland, Bechuanaland			
Welfare Fund	24,195	6	8	and Swasiland Widows'			
Guardians Fund	6,535	5	2	and Orphans' Pension fund			
Personal Savings Fund Levy				Invested with Crown Agents	26,959	0	9
Loan Account	78	11	9	With Joint Colonial Fund	3,978	9	1
War Levy Fund	2,987	11	6	Advances:			
Widows' and Orphans' Pen-				Miscellaneous	51,432	4	2
sion Fund:				A.P.C. Pensions.	717	1	0
				Lerotholi Technical School			
				Stock and work in pro-			
				gress	5,331	15	10
				Leper Settlement Stock.	1,457	9	7
With Crown					58,938	10	7
Agents	30,937	9	10				
Held by							
Basutoland	504	8	0				
Bechuanaland	480	13	3				
Swaziland	217	16	7				
Wool and Mohair Fund	32,140	7	8				
Unexpended Balance of 3½%	32,690	4	8				
Inter-Colonial Loan:							
	8,124	16	3				
General Revenue Balances:							
Balance as at 31.3.52	560,422	6	9				
Less Deficit at 31.3.53	33,638	6	2*				
	526,784	0	7				
Plus Appreciation on Invest-							
ments	9,079	2	3				
Total	535,863	2	10				
	766,748	3	7				

\* This Deficit is overstated by £5 018 16s representing under-issues in respect of expenditure in C D & W. Account

## 2. MAIN HEADS OF TAXATION

*Native Tax*

Revenue from Native Tax for the year ending 31st March, 1954, is anticipated to be £300,000, exceeding the original estimate by £15,000.

Tax is payable by each male domiciled in Basutoland, the normal rate being 34/- per annum. The wealthier persons are taxable at 40/-. A further 25/- is payable for each wife excluding the first, a maximum of two wives being taxable.

During 1953, the Basutoland Council passed a motion that native tax should be payable in respect of a calendar year instead of the financial year. This motion was duly approved and legislation has been enacted to implement the decision with effect from the 1st January, 1954.

*Customs and Excise*

Revenue from Customs and Excise duties is expected to be £450,000, exceeding the original estimate by £11,000. This is due to the imposition of certain new excise duties by the Union of South Africa, of which this Territory receives a share under the Customs Agreement.

*Income Tax*

It is expected that the estimated figure of £145,000 will be realized.

The rates fixed and rebates allowable in respect of the year ended 30th June, 1953, were :

*(1) Normal Tax*

	Basic rate per £ of taxable income	Increase in rate per each £ in excess of £1	Surcharge after deducting rebates.
Married :	15 <i>d.</i>	By 1/1000 of a penny	40 per cent
Unmarried	18 <i>d.</i>	„ „ „ „	50 per cent

*(2) Super Tax*

(On incomes in excess of £1,775)

Married	} 24 <i>d.</i>	By 1/400th of a penny	45 per cent
Unmarried			50 per cent

N.B. For each pound in excess of a taxable income of £16,000 the rates are 4*s.* 2*d.* normal tax and 8*s.* 8*d.* super tax.

Rebates : From the tax calculated at the above rates, the following rebates are deducted :

(a) *Normal Tax*

Primary	{ Married	£26
	{ Unmarried	£20

Children £10 per child

Dependants £2. 10s. per dependant

Insurance Premiums, etc. 1s. 3d. per pound

(b) *Super Tax*

Primary £210

Example of the calculation of normal tax payable by a married man with income of £800 ; one child ; one dependant ; £40 insurance premiums.

Rate : 15 ·799d. per £1 (i.e. 15d. plus 799/1000 of a penny)

Tax payable = 800 x 15 ·799d. less rebates ; plus surcharge

= £52. 13s. 3d. less £41 + 40%

= £16. 6s. 7d. less £3 Poll Tax if paid

Public Companies were taxed at the rate of 7s. 6s. for each pound of taxable income subject to a rebate of £45.

Income Tax is not payable by Africans.

*Trading Licences*

Details of the annual licence fees payable during the year 1953 are shewn in the Basutoland Trading Proclamation, 1951, the more important being :

General Trader . . . . .	£25
Native Trader . . . . .	£2. 10s. or £5
Agent of a Firm. . . . .	£25
Other specified trades . . . . .	£2 to £10

*Stamp Duty*

Stamp duties and fees are payable at the rates shewn in the Schedule to Chapter 70 of the Laws of Basutoland.

*Death Duties*

(a) *Succession Duty*. Subject to certain provisos and exemptions set out in Chapter 67 of the Laws, the rates of Succession Duty are as follows :

Degree of Relationship of Successor to Predecessor	Rates of Duty upon dutiable amounts of succession
(i) Where the successor is the direct descendant or ascendant of the predecessor . . . . .	3 per cent
(ii) Where the successor is the brother or sister of the predecessor . . . . .	5 per cent
(iii) Where the successor is the descendant of the brother or sister of the predecessor . . . . .	8 per cent

- (iv) Where the successor is otherwise related to the predecessor or is a stranger in blood or is an institution . . . . . 12 per cent

(b) *Estate Duty*. This is payable by the estate in terms of Chapter 67 of the Laws, and is distinct from Succession Duty which is payable by successors. The rate of Estate Duty chargeable upon each pound of the dutiable amount is three-ten thousandths of a pound for every complete one hundred pounds or part thereof contained in the dutiable amount, subject to a maximum rate of 6s. 8d. upon each pound. A rebate of £300 is deducted from the amount of duty at the rate so calculated, with the result that it is only on estates where the dutiable amount exceeds £10,000 that Estate Duty is payable.

#### *Wool and Mohair Export Duty*

The duty on all wool and mohair exported from the Territory was originally levied at the rate of  $\frac{1}{2}d$  per pound. On 1st October 1949 it was raised to 1d and on the 17th September 1951 the rate was increased to 4d., wool prices having then been at an abnormally high level for some considerable time. The duty was reduced to 3d. a pound from 1st January, 1952, when prices had fallen to some extent.

The sum of one half-penny from the duty collected on each pound of wool is credited to the Wool and Mohair Fund established for the betterment of the livestock industry of the Territory. Gross revenue from this source is expected to amount to £125,000 during the year of which £25,000 will accrue to the Wool and Mohair Fund.

#### *Poll Tax*

Poll Tax of £3 per annum is payable by all adult male persons who do not pay Native Tax.

## CHAPTER FOUR

### CURRENCY AND BANKING

There are no agricultural or co-operative banks within the Territory, but the Standard Bank of South Africa, Ltd., has a branch office at Maseru. This is the only bank in the Territory.

The currency is provided for under Chapter 72 of the Laws of Basutoland and is the same as in the Union of South Africa.

There are eleven head Post Offices at which is transacted business with the Union Post Office Savings Bank, whose headquarters is at Bloemfontein.

There have been no important developments under this head during the year under review.

CHAPTER FIVE  
  
COMMERCE

Except for the years 1928 and 1950 the value of imports has exceeded that of exports and in most years this adverse balance has been considerable. The year under review has shown an improvement compared with 1952 due mainly to the better prices paid for wool and mohair and the comparatively small surplus of maize. The adverse balance is offset by the export of labour to the mines, industries and farms in the Union of South Africa, resulting in an influx of cash to Basutoland in the form of wages brought back, remittances and deferred pay.

Most of the retail trade of Basutoland is in the hands of Europeans and, in the northern districts, of a few Indians, although many Basuto have applied for and been granted trading licences since the war. In normal years the most important exports of the Territory are wool, mohair, wheat, sorghum and cattle. The value of these exports during the last three years in proportion to total exports is as follows :

	1951 %	1952 %	1953 %
Wool . . . . .	78·7	58·14	63·4
Mohair . . . . .	8·7	16·4	14·94
Wheat . . . . .	2·4	2·55	2·59
Cattle . . . . .	2·3	6·62	6·24
Sorghum . . . . .	1·55	11·47	4·32

TABLE I

*Value of total imports and exports for the years 1951-53*

Year	Imports	Exports
1951 . . . . .	£2,836,059	£2,800,573
1952 . . . . .	£2,584,373	£2,155,974
1953 . . . . .	£2,591,126	£2,348,725

These figures do not include imports made by Government but do include exports made by co-operative societies.

TABLE II

*Quantities and values of imports for the years 1951-53*

	Quantity			Value in £		
	1951	1952	1953	1951	1952	1953
<i>Livestock</i>	<i>No.</i>	<i>No.</i>	<i>No.</i>	<i>£</i>	<i>£</i>	<i>£</i>
Horses, Mules, Donkeys . . .	756	552	323	5,790	4,311	1,846
Cattle . . .	1,367	370	29	14,089	4,614	596
Sheep & Goats .	1,198	179	51	2,237	370	152
<i>Grain</i>	<i>Bags</i>	<i>Bags</i>	<i>Bags</i>			
Wheat & Wheat- meal . . .	40,350	49,541	36,000	76,957	110,802	84,365
Maize & Maizemeal . .	165,264*	154,727*	41,447	259,122	276,535	73,477
Sorghum . . .	9,830	7,075	3,818	22,191	16,251	8,684
Other produce	—	—	—	14,836	4,845	4,841
Merchandise .	—	—	—	2,440,837	2,166,645	2,417,165
Total . . .				2,836,059	2,584,373	*2,591,126

\* Includes imports of Basutoland grown maize.

TABLE III

*Quantities and values of principal exports for the years 1951-53*

	Quantity			Value in £		
	1951	1952	1953	1951	1952	1953
<i>Livestock</i>						
Horses, Mules, Donkeys . . .	191	68	110	2,163	1,212	842
Cattle . . .	3,591	4,879	3,565	43,948	71,411	52,938
Sheep & Goats . . .	4,381	3,503	3,412	13,704	15,131	8,429
<i>Grain</i> . . .	<i>Bags</i>	<i>Bags</i>	<i>Bags</i>			
Wheat & Wheatmeal .	41,178	27,342	30,063	68,119	54,889	60,750
Maize & Maizemeal .	1,758*	1,937*	—	2,221	3,779	—
Sorghum . . .	20,085	89,983	57,951	33,797	247,225	101,555
Barley . . .	160	16	415	169	20	823
Beans & Peas .	28,107	18,200	25,967	88,535	55,447	87,177
Oats . . .	—	215	136	—	610	170
<i>Wool &amp; Mohair</i>	<i>lb.</i>	<i>lb.</i>	<i>lb.</i>			
Wool . . .	6,818,020	7,170,137	6,296,861	1,652,630	1,015,430	1,259,373
Mohair . . .	1,033,748	1,134,882	1,031,618	213,905	326,279	318,109
<i>Hides &amp; Skins</i>						
Hides . . .	294,382	347,869	365,501	24,686	24,175	24,181
Skins . . .	358,871	485,499	466,855	37,429	38,407	35,359
Miscellaneous	—	—	—	4,728	1,984	15,663
Total . . .				2,186,034	1,855,999	1,965,369

\* Exported for re-importation into Basutoland.

The quantities and values of imports and exports given in Tables II and III relate mainly to imports and exports by traders, through whose hands most of the general trade of the country passes. Exports made by individual Basuto and co-operative societies and cattle exported after being sold at Government auction sales are given below.

TABLE IV

*Livestock sold to buyers from the union of South Africa  
at Government Auction Sales during the years 1951-53*

	Quantity			Value in £		
	1951 No.	1952 No.	1953 No.	1951 £	1952 £	1953 £
Cattle .	1,368	2,034	2,567	21,668	30,360	24,178
Other animals .	2,469	1,794	952	11,201	4,430	2,950

TABLE V

*Exports of wool and mohair by co-operative societies  
and individual Basuto during the years 1951-53*

Wool								Weight (lb.)	Value (£)
1951	.	.	.	.	.	.	.	1,996,004	550,876
1952	.	.	.	.	.	.	.	1,677,529	237,989
1953	.	.	.	.	.	.	.	1,148,872	229,774
Mohair									
1951	.	.	.	.	.	.	.	208,628	30,794
1952	.	.	.	.	.	.	.	94,595	27,196
1953	.	.	.	.	.	.	.	106,223	32,725

## CHAPTER SIX

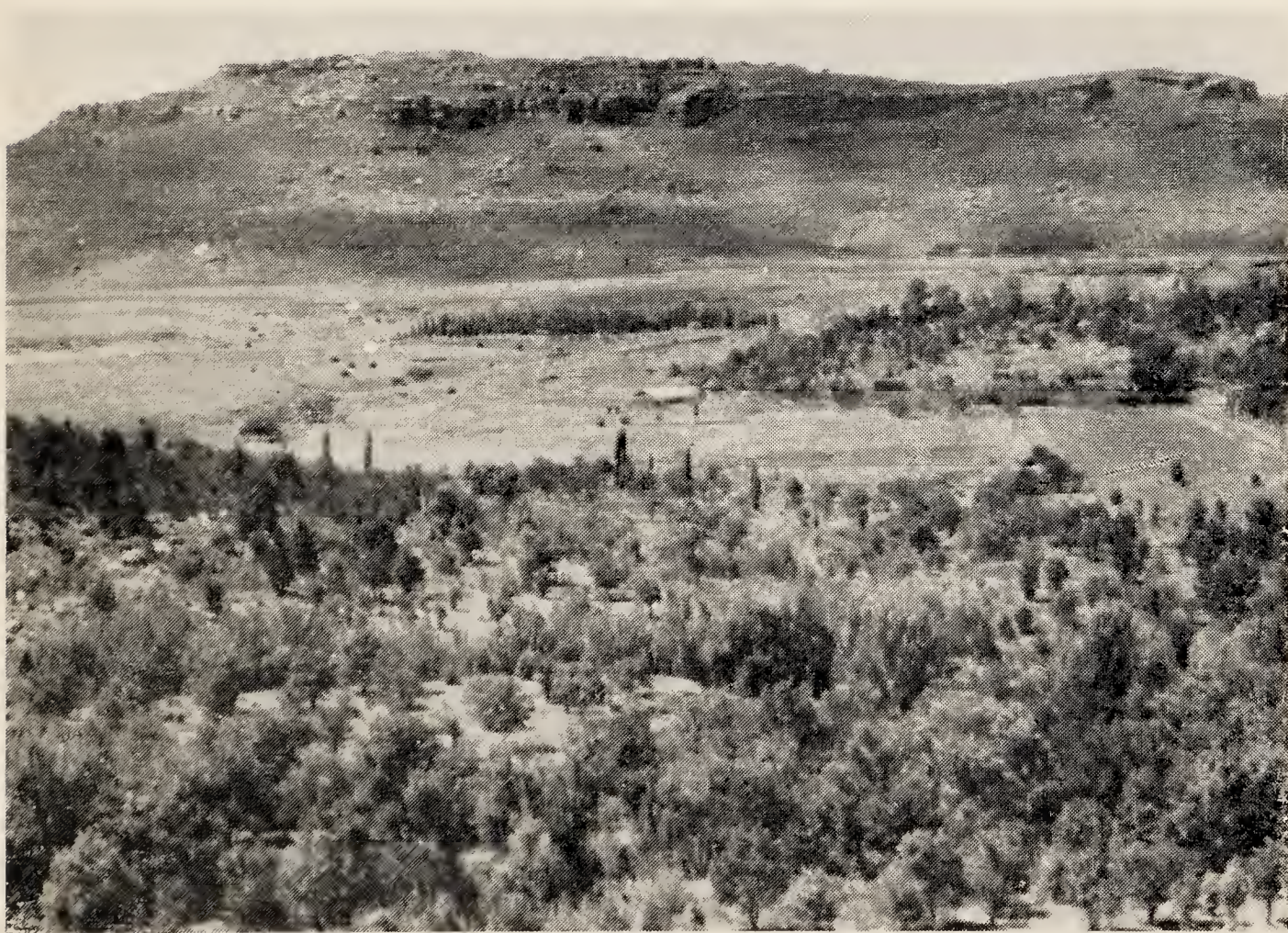
### PRODUCTION

#### I. AGRICULTURAL AND LIVESTOCK SERVICES

The main wealth of Basutoland lies with the farmers. With practically no industries and no prospect of mineral development the future economy of the Territory leans heavily on the agricultural and livestock services.



On the Maseru Reserve. The eroded area in the foreground had just been fenced and planted to trees when this photograph was taken in 1936.



The same area seventeen years later.



In the Maseru district. Badly eroded area with large donga in foreground. This picture was taken in October 1936 at the time a dam was being built to reclaim the donga.



The same area seventeen years later.

## I. LAND UTILIZATION AND TENURE

### (a) *Utilization of Agricultural Land*

The most reliable figures to indicate the uses to which the land is put are obtainable from the Agricultural Survey which was conducted in 1949-50.

The total arable land is 930,000 acres which is 12.4 per cent of the total land area: added to this figure is 3,000 acres representing non-tribal cultivation. The mountainous character of Basutoland accounts for the small percentage of arable land available. In the mountainous district of Mokhotlong, for example, only 4 per cent of its land area can be used for cultivation. The mean arable field acreage per household is 5.75 acres, the average size of a household being four persons including absentees. There are, however, 11,700 households with no arable land at all. Of the total arable land 22 per cent is not cultivated, 47 per cent is put down to maize, 15 per cent to sorghums, 13 per cent to wheat and the remainder to peas, barley, beans and oats.

### (b) *Soil Conservation*

The principal importance of soil conservation work in Basutoland is its fundamental value in stabilising the economy of the Territory, based as the latter is upon agricultural production. Its effectiveness becomes apparent in the increased production of better quality food and cash crops and the improved grazing made available for livestock. A soil conservation campaign which embraces work throughout the Territory has been in existence since 1936. The campaign was launched with the principal object of stabilising the highly erodible soil: this is being accomplished by the construction of contour terrace banks in the lowlands, the construction of grass buffer strips and diversion furrows in the mountains, tree planting and fencing in badly denuded areas, and the building of dams. This work, largely financed from the Colonial Development and Welfare Fund, has been carried through with outstanding success, but it is not yet complete.

The following work has been done:

- (i) *Lowland Area*. Over 80 per cent of arable land has been protected by terracing or a combination of terraces and grass strips
- (ii) *Foothill Area*. About 90 per cent of this area has been laid out under grass or buffer strips. In the Leribe District further protection by the construction of diversion furrows has been practically completed.
- (iii) *Mountain Area*. The buffer strip work has been completed but maintenance men are required to deal with those few fields where the strips have been ploughed out or where marking was not possible owing to the lands being frozen during winter.

During 1953 the following work was done:

			<i>Cost (£)</i>
Lowland Terraces . . .	41,745	acres	26,275
Diversion Furrows . . .	16,815	acres	3,820
Buffer Strips. . . . .	106,106	acres	7,232
Dams . . . . .	19	units	1,296
Trees planted . . . . .	15,913	units	702
Dongas demarcated . . .	863	miles	809

The capacity of the dams which were constructed during the year amounts to 95,438,000 gallons of water. The trees were planted around the dams where they could be fenced in. The planting of trees for fuel consumption and building poles has become a function of the Basuto Administration.

The plant and machinery repair shop and servicing organization was overhauled during the year resulting in a better performance being obtained from the vehicles used in soil conservation work.

The Ward Chief of Phamong in the Mohale's Hoek District has handed over to the Department a badly denuded and eroded mountainside of about 2,000 acres with the request that it be reclaimed. The area has been completely depopulated and destocked and reclamation work has continued with the making of small dams, the construction of contour furrows, the planting of certain indigenous trees and grasses and other works. The opportunity to reclaim this area has been welcomed.

Grazing control has continued to show such remarkable success that it can now be confidently stated that the loss of soil from storm water run off is well under control in the mountain areas. It is proposed that the restocking of closed areas will not take place until the carrying capacity of the area concerned has been established : an estimate has been made for one area of about 1,300 square miles and the results obtained are forming the basis of discussions with the Basuto Administration to ensure that the carrying capacity of rested areas is not exceeded when they are re-opened for grazing. One area which is in the Paramount Chief's own ward has been opened to a limited number of livestock and not to all and sundry, as was the custom in the past. An important development in maintaining the balance between grazing and arable land has been the issue of an order by the Paramount Chief prohibiting any Mosuto from breaking any grassland unless a member of the Agricultural Department staff has certified that it is in every way suitable as arable land.

### (c) *Land Ownership*

Proclamation No. 14 of the 12th March, 1868, declared inter alia that "the Territory of the said Tribe (i.e. the Basuto) shall be, and shall be taken to be British Territory".

In practice the land of Basutoland is held in trust for the Nation by the Chieftainship. There is no freehold tenure, and Basuto are allotted land by their Chiefs : it has been estimated that the mean period during which land is continuously occupied by a household is 18 years. Mission and trading stations are granted land by the Paramount Chief in consulta-

tion with the Resident Commissioner. The Government Reserves are areas set apart for the use of Government.

There are no European settlers in Basutoland. The few Europeans in the Territory are engaged in Government, mission or labour necessity work, or in trading.

## 2. AGRICULTURE

The policy of the Agricultural Department continues to be directed towards the improvement of soil productivity and food crop production, the maintenance of livestock of improved productive capacity and the stimulation of co-operation among agriculturalists. From the results of the various research works which have been initiated, a well informed and efficient advisory service is being built up.

The staff of the Department is headed by the Director under whom there are officers responsible for soil conservation, wool and mohair, soil fertility, veterinary, and agricultural and livestock work: demonstrators and veterinary assistants help these officers in the field.

The principal crops are maize, sorghum and wheat followed by peas, barley, beans and oats. Crop production has been satisfactory during the year under review. During the time when the main growth was in progress the rainfall was adequate throughout the Territory, and crop yields were better than usual, though in some places premature ripening was induced by early frosts. The 1953-54 season opened with almost ideal conditions.

Production figures can only be assessed from the quantities of food stuffs for which export or import permits have been issued during the calendar year. These quantities were as follows:

<i>Produce exported</i>	<i>1951</i>	<i>1952</i> <i>200 lb. bags</i>	<i>1953</i>
Wheat and Wheatmeal . . .	53,977	36,589	38,629
Peas and Beans . . . . .	32,511	18,200	25,967
Sorghums and Malt . . . .	21,769	89,983	57,951

The export of maize other than for reimportation elsewhere into Basutoland has been prohibited, but to obtain some indication of production, import figures can be compared as follows (the 1951 and 1952 figures include imports of Basutoland grown maize):

<i>Produce exported</i>	<i>1951</i>	<i>1952</i> <i>200 lb. bags</i>	<i>1953</i>
Maize and Maize Products	165,264	154,727	41,447

On the 1953 figure £14,598 was paid to the Union Government, being a refund of the consumer's subsidy allowed in the Union of South Africa. The subsidy was 7s. 4d. per unit of 200 lb. up to the 30th April and thereafter 6s. 7d. per unit. The drop in imports, amounting to 73 per cent, should be considered in relation to the fact that the 1953 imports amounted to less than 2 per cent of the estimated maize crop produced within the Territory. The last year in which maize and maize products were exported, other than for reimportation into Basutoland, was 1948.

Figures taken from the Agricultural Survey in respect of the 1949-1950 crops, give the following yields :

Maize . . . . .	1,062 lb.	per	acre
Sorghums . . . . .	800 lb.	„	„
Wheat . . . . .	900 lb.	„	„
Peas . . . . .	900 lb.	„	„
Barley . . . . .	1,100 lb.	„	„
Beans . . . . .	300 lb.	„	„
Oats (forage) . . . . .	800 lb.	„	„

Maize is grown throughout the Territory. Sorghums, beans and oats are grown principally in the lowlands while wheat and peas are in the main confined to the mountain area. Production is largely in the hands of individual farmers though it is hoped that the experience gained in the Pilot Project area with co-operative group farms will lead to an extension of this type of farming, which in turn will bring about the use of a more satisfactory rotation of crops ; at the same time it will help to ensure that the crops grown will be those with the best yield for the area concerned. Apart from the Pilot Project, much general propaganda has been directed towards the reduction of monoculture which has been the practice for so long.

Fruit trees were again in demand and were issued at a nominal charge. A new nursery has been established at Mashai, in the heart of the Maluti mountains, and the demand has indicated that more nurseries, purely for peach seedling production, are required in the mountain area.

The need for permits for the purchase of all types of fertilizer ceased during the year so that it is not possible to say what weight of superphosphates was imported. Approximately 50 tons were used in the mechanized group section of the Pilot Project. It is evident that the use of phosphatic manure must enter more into the farming economy of Basutoland. Despite propaganda, kraal manure is seldom used, the reasons being the lack of firewood available and the absence of suitable transport facilities.

Vegetable gardens have increased in number and the free issue of seed, of which cabbage is the most popular, continues. The Department is fostering two new movements, namely the collection of seed and the sun drying of vegetables for consumption in winter when the fresh product is unobtainable.

The Pilot Project has progressed remarkably well in its first year of operation. On the reclamation side over one million yards of grass strip-ping has been completed by peasants and altogether 4,741 acres protected. Grazing control has been established and small dams have been built.

With regard to the demonstration aspect co-operative mechanized farming has been introduced and four independent mechanized groups have been established. While the initial equipment and operating costs for the 1953-54 season are being provided from Pilot Project funds, the groups will be expected to bear future recurrent and capital costs, the element of subsidy being progressively reduced. Cultivation costs have been assessed at 30s. per acre, but this figure will be altered if necessary in the light of experience. The ploughing costs, which included fuel, lubricants, drivers' wages and depreciation on tractors, have varied between 8.22s. and 12.20s. per acre according to the type of tractor and the group concerned. The participants of each group have been quick to realise that economy and efficiency can only be achieved by carrying out the right operations at the right time. The experience gained from the working of these groups will determine how mechanized farming can best be introduced in the rest of the Territory; seven other mechanized units, for which provision has been made for use outside the Pilot Project area, have not yet been placed.

Most of the work carried out during the year has been of a preparatory nature and future progress must depend on the will of the people, since, as was stated in Part 1 of this report, the principles and objects of community development underlie the whole approach to the people of the Pilot Project area.

All the buildings on the Maseru Experiment Station, for which provision was included in the estimates, have been completed; a notable feature has been the erection of a small training centre at which departmental staff will receive refresher courses. Lucerne production is included in the work being undertaken in an endeavour to decide whether overhead or flood irrigation is more suitable; small observation plots of rain-grown lucerne have also been established on the Qacha's Nek Reserve. Buildings for poultry and pig breeding are approaching completion with a view to meeting the demand from the Basuto for these animals; it is expected to turn out 200 chicks a week which will be sold when three months old. Some 5,000 mixed deciduous and evergreen trees have been planted to form wind breaks and to provide fuel, and a new tree nursery is being established.

The research work which is centred on the Maseru Experiment Station is concerned with ways and means of increasing territorial food production. There are eleven sub-stations in the districts which are designed to serve the lowland, foothill and mountain areas. Investigation into soil fertility has shown a marked deficiency in phosphate; whilst this deficiency exists in most of the sub-continent, it has been aggravated in Basutoland by poor farming systems, which were essentially exploitive. It would appear, even at this early stage, that the deficiency of phosphate, more than any other single factor, limits the agricultural production in the lowlands and foothills of the Territory; it is estimated that at the present population level and standard of living, regular applications by Basuto farmers of suitable phosphatic fertiliser, or of manure in sufficient

quantity, would make the nation more than self sufficient in food requirements.

Observation suggests that there already exists a wealth of crop varietal material in the Territory; samples have been collected and a plant selection scheme initiated. With regard to crop pests the ravages of insects are considered important in the list of controllable factors which reduce crop yields in the Territory. Most of the insect pest types can be effectively and simply controlled by various well known insecticides; investigation of this problem continues, however.

### 3. ANIMAL HUSBANDRY

The biennial livestock census held in 1953 gave the following figures :

Cattle . . . . .	406,454
Horses . . . . .	92,884
Donkeys . . . . .	53,543
Sheep . . . . .	1,303,325
Goats . . . . .	550,612
Mules . . . . .	3,550

Tank area supervisors were used to collate this information for the first time and the figures are considered more accurate than those supplied at previous censuses. For the second year in succession the number of livestock exported exceeded the number imported.

The most important export products of the Territory remain wool and mohair. In order to maintain the improvement in Basutoland wool and mohair, legislation embodying new and comprehensive regulations was introduced towards the end of the year. The main object of these regulations is to standardize the classing, packing and marking of all wool and mohair with provision for tracing irregularities, thus allowing the industry to command greater confidence among the buyers. Wool and mohair classers, by whomsoever they may be employed, are required to be trained and licensed. Their training is conducted by Agricultural and Livestock Officers under the general direction of the Wool and Mohair Officer so that uniformity throughout the Territory may be obtained. The construction of wool sheds to provide better facilities for classing at the time of shearing has progressed satisfactorily. It is intended to erect many more sheds in the mountain area, from which most of the wool and mohair is produced.

There were 923 well bred Merino rams imported during the year bringing the total to 12,572 since this scheme was started eighteen years ago. At the same time drives are held frequently to eliminate the undesirable type of locally bred rams. These schemes have led to a steady improvement of the quality, length and average yield per animal.

Wool exported during the year amounted to 7,445,733 lb. valued at £1,489,147.

The legislation referred to above has already started an improvement in the get-up of the mohair clip, interest being shown in Bradford, France and the United States of America. During a visit to Bradford, the Wool and Mohair Officer was informed that Basutoland mohair had inherent qualities not possessed by any other hair, resulting in blending properties of exceptional value.

The total of well bred Angora rams imported during 1952-53 amounted to 607; these are resold to goat farmers. As a result of a recommendation made by the Basutoland Council arrangements are being made to sell for slaughter undesirable goats not of a good Angora type.

Mohair exported during the year amounted to 1,137,841 lb. valued at £350,834.

Nearly 50,000 hides and 160,000 sheep and goat skins were exported in 1953.

The Veterinary Division has moved to new and more suitable offices adjoining the Maseru Experiment Station. The division consists of the Principal Veterinary Officer, a Veterinary Officer and eleven veterinary assistants. The Clinic in Maseru dealt with some 2,500 cases and some clinical work was undertaken in the districts as well.

As a result of the veterinary assistants being stationed in districts it has been possible to obtain a more accurate picture of the disease position in Basutoland. It appears that infectious diseases do not play any important role in the Territory and the main problems are malnutrition accompanied by endo- and ectoparasites.

Sporadic outbreaks of anthrax and quarter evil occurred: anthrax is known to most stock owners with the result that it is reported at once and timely inoculation of relatively small numbers of livestock effectively controls the disease. Equine mange is becoming a problem and tank area supervisors have been trained in its treatment. Animal Health suffered particularly by losses from bluetongue and horsesickness. Bluetongue occurred in sheep, the majority of which were fortunately in the mountains, where the disease is infrequent. Horsesickness was more severe, assuming epizootic proportions at one stage, as also was the case in neighbouring areas of the Union of South Africa. Many owners moved their horses to the mountain areas, which no doubt prevented more severe losses, but it is estimated that 5,000 horses died during the outbreak.

Expert advice on improved livestock breeding was given by Professor J. H. R. Bisschop. Professor Bisschop considered that there exists in Basutoland a definite type of cattle, in spite of the indiscriminate introduction of exotic blood, and it is his advice that policy should be directed to fixing this local type as a definite breed. The present ratio of males to females is too high and encouragement should be given to selling males at an earlier age. Implementing this advice is not easy in view of the lack of suitable land to maintain the large closed herds required and of the general predilection of the Basuto for exotic breeds of cattle. Plans have however been prepared for a number of small trial herds to be kept under Basuto management.

## II. CO-OPERATIVE SOCIETIES

The principle that Government should take the initiative in fostering Co-operative Societies is accepted in Basutoland. An administrative Officer was seconded as Registrar in 1948 after an extended course of training overseas. At present the Co-operative staff comprises a Registrar, Assistant Registrar one European Audit Clerk, five African Inspectors, one Clerk and one Messenger. The total cost to Government during 1953 was approximately £4,500. While the Registrar is seconded from District Administration the post of Assistant Registrar is a permanent one, and its present holder was recruited from the co-operative movement in England. The appointment of the Audit Clerk in June 1953, has freed the Registrar and Assistant Registrar from a great deal of routine auditing, and allows them to devote more time to propaganda, development and supervision.

The most prosperous and successful form of Co-operation has continued to be the marketing of wool and mohair. Consumers' societies have however shown that they should eventually flourish. There remains scope for other kinds of societies and at present an exploration of possibilities is being made. It is hoped that the mechanized farming societies fostered under the Agricultural Department's Pilot Project will eventually provide models for mechanized farming co-operatives elsewhere. Experimental rural credit societies are at present being contemplated.

TABLE A

<i>Type of Society</i>	<i>Number of Registered Societies</i>			<i>Total Membership</i>		
	<i>1951</i>	<i>1952</i>	<i>1953</i>	<i>1951</i>	<i>1952</i>	<i>1953</i>
Wool & Mohair Marketing	9	10	11	1568	2289	2205
Consumers . . . . .	19	14	11	1510	1137	1373
Agricultural (Consumer and Producer Marketing)	4	5	7	369	468	812

<i>Type of Society</i>	<i>Total Share Capital</i>			<i>Total Turnover *</i>		
	<i>1951</i>	<i>1952</i>	<i>1953</i>	<i>1951</i>	<i>1952</i>	<i>1953</i>
	£	£	£	£	£	£
Wool & Mohair Marketing	1192	1915	1869	149925	94731	79982
Consumer . . . . .	830	627	977	3198	3750	6747
Agricultural (Consumer and Producer Marketing). .	306	372	545	3421	2849	3719

\* *N.B.* Turnover figures are for the societies' financial year. In 1951, this ended on March 31st, but from 1952 onwards on September 30th. The 1952 figures, therefore represent an 18 month period.

## I. WOOL AND MOHAIR MARKETING

During the 1952-53 wool season, prices were generally higher than during 1951-52, but did not approach the record levels of 1950-51. The present season 1953-54 is relatively stable with prices at roughly the same level as last season. The following table gives a comparison of prices for the different classes of Basutoland wool (after deducting the societies' commission) for 1950-51, 1951-52, 1952-53 and for the present season.

	<i>C1</i> <i>d.</i>	<i>C2</i> <i>d.</i>	<i>SS</i> <i>d.</i>	<i>S</i> <i>d.</i>	<i>CBP</i> <i>d.</i>	<i>BP</i> <i>d.</i>	<i>BKS</i> <i>d.</i>	<i>XM</i> <i>d.</i>	<i>LOX</i> <i>d.</i>	<i>C&amp;C</i> <i>d.</i>
1950-51										
Averages . .	93	83	80	77	68	64	61	67	45	66
1951-52										
Averages . .	33	31	29	25	23	20	17	20	13	18
1952-53										
Averages . .	45	43	41	40	34	34	33	33	15	26
Typical December 1954	43	41	39	38	33	33	32	32	15	26

In last year's report it was suggested that the great decline in prices between 1950-51 and 1951-52 had not discouraged co-operative marketing. This appears now to have been a little optimistic for there was a sharp drop in wool exports in 1952-53, perhaps reflecting the lower prices in the previous season. It is fair to add that total wool exports for the Territory were well below average during the same period. During the present season, prices are very close to those of 1952-53, and there is already evidence that co-operative wool exports will show an increase. If prices remain reasonably stable, co-operative wool marketing should expand steadily.

The decline during the 1952-53 seasons gives cause for concern but not for alarm. The reasons for it have been carefully investigated and the conclusion drawn is that it is only an interlude in a trend which is generally upwards. One cause has been mentioned already, that it was in part the delayed consequence of the great fall in prices between the 1950-51 and 1951-52 seasons while another cause must be the general drop in wool exports throughout the Territory. Furthermore co-operative members found that the increase in Government wool duty reduced their net incomes during 1951-52 and as a result some deserted their societies in 1952-53. In 1950-51 the high wool duty was hardly noticed because of the extremely high wool prices. In 1951-52 it combined with low wool prices to produce much dissatisfaction among co-operative members, who are, as a matter of policy, told all the facts about prices and deductions. Many believe that co-operative members alone pay wool duty. It is difficult to disabuse them of notions such as this because the fluctuating market makes comparisons difficult.

During the winter (May to October) the wool marketing societies market their members' mohair. In 1952, the exports dropped by 42 per

cent compared with 1951. Prices, however, were high and in 1953 mohair exports were higher by 46 per cent than in 1952. Prices again were high and co-operative members in one district were receiving 41*d.* per lb. for their LOX compared with the local price of 6*d.* to 8*d.*

Hides and skins were exported throughout the year, the total weight being much the same as in the previous year. Wool co-operatives also continued to purchase fertilizer, stock salt and agricultural implements for their members.

One new society was registered early in the present wool season. It has already despatched a considerable quantity of wool to the coast, and it promises to be a very successful society, being ideally situated.

## 2. CONSUMER SOCIETIES

Progress here is still far from inspiring, but four societies have made a definite advance, and two others are likely to expand in the near future. The most successful was in Maseru, where a successful store has been established. With a membership of only 275—nearly all African—and capital of £317 it achieved a turnover of £3,880 and made a surplus of £270. The successful societies have all operated stores carrying stocks of routine consumers' goods, and this is to be the model for future developments.

## 3. AGRICULTURAL SOCIETIES

Two new agricultural societies were registered in 1953. They have set out with the intention of building up a consumer business as a basis for the superimposition of produce marketing and agricultural supply. The last two activities are too intermittent to carry a society unaided. The consumer business will give continuity and regularity to the societies' activities. Two of the old established societies are almost defunct. Two others have acted as small wool marketing societies, but propose to launch out into consumer trade. The remaining one has already become in fact a successful consumer society with agricultural supply as sideline. So far there is no development in produce marketing, other than wool, mohair, hides and skins but it is hoped that other forms of produce will eventually be marketed co-operatively.

## 4. GENERAL

The co-operative movement in Basutoland is firmly established. It is still operating on a small scale, but the prospects of expansion are good. There remains a lack of balance. It will be desirable to foster consumer and agricultural co-operative societies and to develop other types of societies so far untried in the Territory. Effort will also be directed to giving coherence to what is now no more than a group of scattered and independent societies.

## CHAPTER SEVEN

## SOCIAL SERVICES

## I. EDUCATION

With only one Government School in the Territory, African education is largely in the hands of the three main Missions, (Paris Evangelical, Roman Catholic and English Church) under the direction of the Education Department. Grants-in-aid are paid by Government to the three missions to cover the salaries of all teachers in fully aided schools and the salary of one teacher in each partially aided school ; in addition grants are paid from Territorial funds for equipment in primary schools. The total expenditure on grants-in-aid for the calendar year amounted to £138,437.

Under Colonial Development and Welfare Scheme D. 758, building grants amounting to £5,034 were made to 75 schools for extension and improvement to buildings whilst £4,000 was spent on the construction of two new junior secondary schools at St. Agnes, Teyateyaneng, and Hlotse, Leribe. The scheme also continued to pay the salaries of the three mission Educational Secretaries and a small amount for equipment in schools.

Of the 935 schools and institutions in the Territory, 923 are under mission control ; of the 923 mission schools, 719 are fully aided, 95 partially aided and 109 unaided. There are eight schools maintained entirely from Government funds and managed by Committees.

During the year 11 new schools were registered ; five Intermediate, four Private and two Junior Secondary.

The school enrolment showed an increase of 2,256 over 1952. Out of a total enrolment of 96,960 in the Territory, 90,760 were attending maintained or aided schools – of these 90,231 (31,332 boys, 58,999 girls) were in 813 aided primary schools, staffed by 1,810 teachers – an average of approximately 50 pupils to one teacher. There were 5,271 (1,622 boys, 3,649 girls) attending 108 unaided schools under 141 teachers.

In the 13 secondary and post-primary institutions, which have 82 teachers between them, there were 1,409 pupils (875 boys, 534 girls) of whom 1,010 were taking general, 118 technical or vocational and 281 teacher training courses.

The average age of entry and leaving in primary schools is 8 and 16 years respectively, and in secondary schools is 16 and 21 years.

The only institution providing post secondary education in the Territory is the Pius XII Catholic College (unaided) with an enrolment of 27 men and five women, of whom only eight are Basuto. The college offers courses in Bachelor of Arts or Bachelor of Commerce degrees. Basutoland makes an annual grant to the University College of Fort Hare where 7 Basuto students were studying in 1953.

Scholarship assistance from Colonial Development and Welfare Funds was given to two students taking a veterinary course in Edinburgh and one taking a medical course in Johannesburg. One student studied Civil engineering at Edinburgh University under a British Council Scholarship. Bursaries from Government funds were awarded to 94 students taking courses in Basutoland and 11 taking post-secondary courses in the Union of South Africa.

With a constant upward trend in enrolment there comes an increasingly urgent need for more efficient use of existing facilities. There is still a large discrepancy in the ratios of qualified to unqualified staff, and pupils to teachers. Many students prefer to take general subjects in secondary institutions rather than teacher training in the hope of finding Government or similar employment. Measures adopted in preceding years to check irregularity in attendance and to curtail spending more time than necessary in passing through the school have recently been applied and still have to show results.

For the administration of education, the headquarters' staff consists of a Director, a Senior Education Officer and a Woman Education Officer. The Territory is divided into three circuits, each under an Education Officer. To help circuit Education Officers in their work, there is a field staff of two African Assistant Education Officers and seven Supervisors, each nominally responsible for a district; their work consists of regular routine visits to schools, discussions on all educational matters with teachers, school committees and managers and liaison work between the schools and the chiefs and their people. Circuit Education Officers spend as much time as possible in the field, correlating the work of their circuit staff, visiting managers and doing as much inspection work as their administrative duties will allow. All departmental staff have been fully engaged in holding refresher courses for in-service teachers wherever possible.

Consultation with the people is carried out at both district and national levels. District Advisory Committees with the District Commissioner of the district as chairman and representatives of the three main missions, of the Teachers' Association, of the chiefs and of the people as members, and the Education Officer as Secretary, meet annually to advise the Director on the local application of educational matters. These Committees in turn also elect representatives to the Central Advisory Board under the chairmanship of the Director of Education, with additional members nominated by the missions, the Paramount Chief, and the Teachers' Association. This Board is responsible for advising the Resident Commissioner on all matters affecting education.

During 1953, the Central Advisory Board made recommendations on the following matters, which were subsequently approved by Government:

New regulations concerning the opening and maintenance of schools.

The holding of Standard III and Form A (the latter a consolidation year after Standard VI) as normal internal examinations; revision of the grouping of subjects and the marks allotted to them in the

Standard VI Examination, which is conducted by the Department.

Introduction of the Basutoland Primary Higher Teachers' Certificate.

Formation of a Bursary Selection Committee to advise on the award of bursaries.

Admission of girl students to the Clerical Course at the Lerotholi Technical School.

The Board also discussed staffing problems under the grant-in-aid system and future development plans including the establishment of local Education Authorities.

Co-operation and co-ordination between Missions and the Department is carried out through Educational Secretaries, whose salaries are paid by Government. In turn, Educational Secretaries deal with their parish managers. These are normally the missionaries in charge of parishes which may vary from a crowded parish with one school, to a parish with twenty out-station schools, often very remote. Circuit officers deal with managers direct on minor matters.

During the year the Union Government intimated that its ban on extra-territorial students would take effect from January 1954 with partial exceptions in the case of Fort Hare and the Natal Medical School. Plans have been prepared to meet this contingency as far as possible.

The first two-year course under the revised Home Industries Organization ended in December and six candidates obtained their certificates (three at Cana, two at Leribe and one at Mazenod). Successful candidates are entitled to a loan of equipment to set up home units in Basutoland and it is expected that with the training they have received in costing, they will be in a position to sell any articles they produce to local markets.

The two technical schools in the Territory, one run by the Government, the other by the Parish Evangelical Mission, reported satisfactory progress. At the Government Lerotholi Technical School, where there are 83 students on the roll, considerable improvements were made in various departments to increase instructional efficiency by emphasizing the teaching rather than the production side, Night school classes have been further co-ordinated with school work to allow candidates to sit for external technical examinations. A steady demand for trained men is reported in most departments even to the extent of trainees being booked up two years prior to their completion. The Leloaleng Technical Institution, with 50 students on the roll, had a successful year, the most popular departments being motor mechanics and carpentry, which were kept very busy throughout.

The cinema van continues to be extremely popular and was in almost continuous use for the greater part of the year. Apart from regular visits to local institutions in Maseru itself, the van went on many outside trips to various districts. Over the Coronation itself, it went to Qacha's Nek, on the eastern side of Basutoland and remote from the rest of the country, where several shows were given and greatly appreciated. Films shown have been of an educational nature, including features, news reels and, of course, the Coronation films, which aroused particular interest.

*Finance*  
(Calendar year 1953)

	<i>Recurrent</i>	<i>Capital</i>	<i>Total</i>
	£	£	£
<i>From Colonial Revenue</i>			
Grants-in-aid . . . . .	138,437	—	138,437
Education Administration . .	17,095	—	17,095
Other charges . . . . .	16,831	740	17,571
Total Colonial Revenue . . .	172,363	740	173,103
<i>From Voluntary Agencies</i> . .	25,442	32,975	58,417
<i>From Imperial Funds</i> . . . .	4,079	9,035	13,114
Total . . . . .	201,884	42,750	244,634

*Schools and Roll*

	<i>No. of schools</i>	<i>Boys</i>	<i>Girls</i>	<i>Total</i>
1. Primary . . . . .	921	32,902	62,268	95,170
2. Secondary . . . . .	5	665	345	1,010
3. Vocational . . . . .	2	83	35	118
4. Teacher Training . . . . .	6	127	154	281
5. Post Secondary . . . . .	1	41	8	49
Total . . . . .	935	33,870	63,090	96,960

*Examination Results*

<i>Examination</i>	<i>Candidates entered</i>	<i>Passed</i>	<i>1st Class pass or Matricula- tion exemption</i>
Departmental Standard VI . . . . .	1,636	681	5
Departmental Teachers' Certifi- cate . . . . .	102	68	—
Cape Primary Higher Teachers' Certificate . . . . .	19	13	—
Cape Junior Certificate . . . . .	133	85	8
Cape Senior Certificate . . . . .	36	24	11

## II. PUBLIC HEALTH

The policy of the Medical Department is to provide medical attention for as large a percentage of the population as possible. At each district headquarters there is a Government hospital with a Medical Officer and nursing staff. Each hospital has an outpatient department and some have clinics some distance away which are visited by the Medical Officer at regular intervals. At most of the hospitals ante-natal and infant welfare clinics are held twice a week and are well attended. As funds become available more Health Centres, Mountain Dispensaries and Rural Treatment Centres are being established in the mountains ; these centres have African Health Assistants and/or trained African Nurses in charge.

Greater efforts are being made towards preventive medicine. Reports of outbreaks of serious epidemic diseases are investigated by the Health Inspectors; appropriate prophylactic inoculations are given and the cause of the outbreak dealt with ; huts are disinfected, rodents destroyed or water supplies protected as necessary. Sanitation arrangements (usually bucket type) are restricted to urban areas. African villages in the Territory are usually small and scattered and their sanitation does not present a problem. In some larger villages, public latrines have been installed. Each year several springs in rural areas are enclosed and piped, but it is slow work due to the transport difficulties in remote areas.

Owing to shortage of staff and equipment, little research can be carried out in Basutoland. New methods of treatment have been tried out in tuberculosis and syphilis and figures on the incidence of deficiency diseases are being collected.

Dr. K.E.A. Underwood Ground represented Basutoland at the Nutrition Conference held in Gambia in November, 1952, under the auspices of the Commission for Technical Co-operation in Africa south of the Sahara. He presented two papers on "Kwashiorkor in Basutoland" and "Dietary Factors in Kwashiorkor in Basutoland" which were published in the minutes of the Conference during 1953.

Sir Eric Pridie, Chief Medical Adviser to the Colonial Office, visited the Territory during August and his valuable advice has proved of the greatest assistance in planning future developments.

Applications have been made to the World Health Organization for technical assistance towards a nutrition survey and control and towards a tuberculosis survey and control.

A blood bank was started during the year. Blood arrives in Maseru by air from Durban, Natal, once a week and any unused blood is returned to Durban the following week. Supplies of blood serum are available at district hospitals.

The Government professional and technical medical staff consists of :

<i>European</i>	<i>African</i>
1 Director of Medical Services	2 Medical Officers
12 Medical Officers	1 Assistant Health Inspector
1 Assistant Medical Officer	1 Sanitation Assistant

2 Hospital Matrons	1 Health Assistant
3 Nursing Sisters-in-Charge	6 Pupil Health Assistants
8 Nursing Sisters	29 Dispensers
1 Health Inspector.	4 Pupil Dispensers
	5 Trained African Nurses-in-charge
	19 Trained African Nurses
	18 Student Nurses (including Midwives)
	67 Ward Attendants (hospital orderlies)
	8 Health & Welfare Inspectors (also act as Leprosy Inspectors)
	1 Laboratory Assistant (at Leper Settlement)

There are four African doctors in private practice, one in Maseru, two in Leribe and one in Mafeteng.

The Missions employ five European doctors and a number of Trained European and African Nurses.

A European dentist started a practice in Maseru during the year; he receives a Government grant for treating hospital cases when required. There are no other dentists in the Territory.

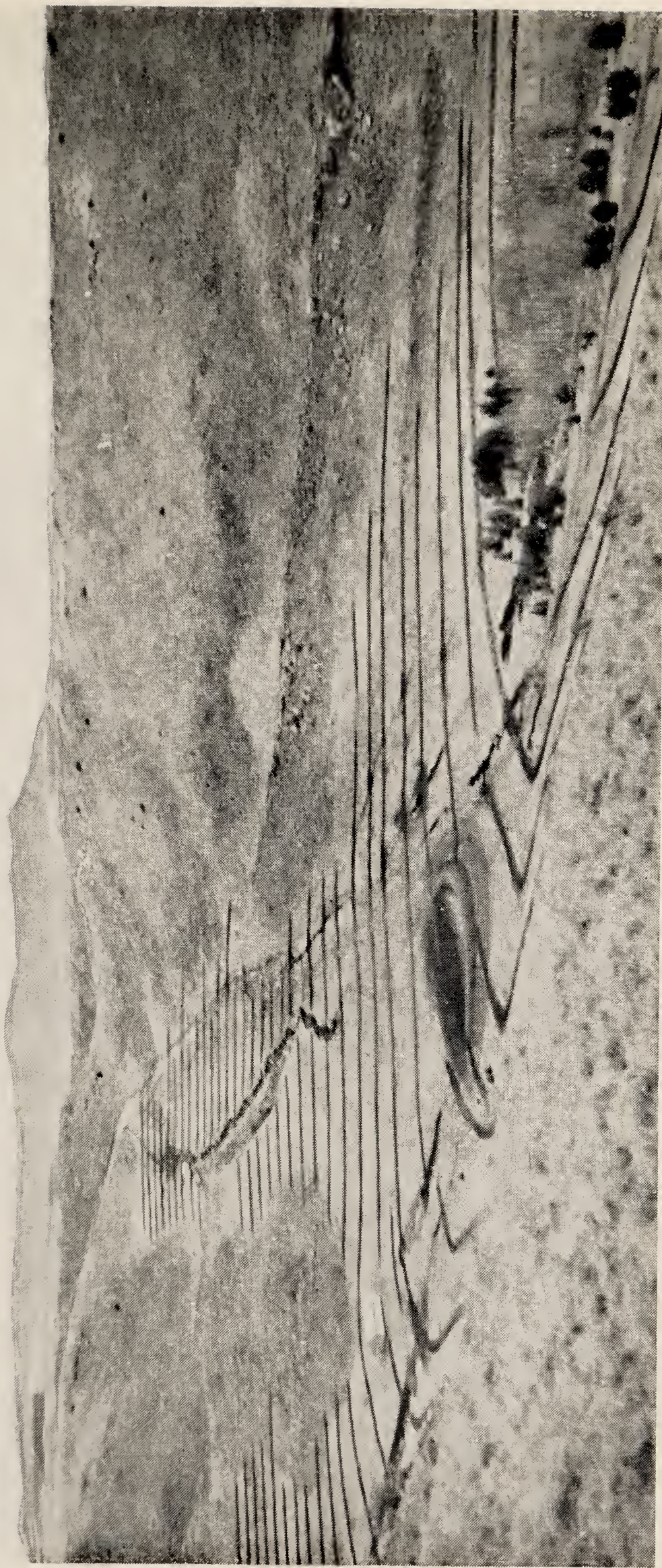
The African population for the Census of 1946 was 561,289 and it is now estimated that there is 1 doctor per 28,000 Africans.

Dr. S. P. Makotoko completed his medical studies at Witwatersrand University in 1953 and intends returning to Basutoland in 1955 after completing his internship in the Union of South Africa. Two other Basuto are studying medicine abroad, Mr. Khutšoane in India and Mr. Maphathe in Dublin.

Medical and Health facilities are financed from territorial revenue. For the financial year ended 31st March, 1953, the actual recurrent expenditure of the Medical Department was £122,661. Included in this amount is the sum of £2,894 which was spent on grants to Mission Hospitals. The proportion of medical expenditure to total ordinary expenditure for the Territory was 9.90 per cent. During the same period actual revenue amounted to £10,269.

The existing facilities for hospitals, health centres and dispensaries are as follows :

	<i>Government</i>	<i>Mission</i>	<i>Total</i>
Hospitals . . . . .	9	4	13
Beds available . . . . .	390	157	547
X-ray Plants . . . . .	4	2	6
Health Centres. . . . .	2	0	2
Mountain Dispensaries . . . . .	1	1	2
Out-patient Clinics . . . . .	6	6	12
Leper Settlement . . . . .	1	0	1
Mental Detention Centre . . . . .	1	0	1



Near Quthing district headquarters. This area is being protected by contour terrace banks : a dam has recently been constructed and the tree plantation is being extended. The building above the dam is a wool shed.



Dam being constructed in 1938, near the Leper Settlement at Botsabelo.



The same dam fifteen years later.

## I. HOSPITALS

The four Mission hospitals are situated at Roma, Morija, Paray (Ntaote's) and Mapoteng ; the last is not yet completed. All four hospitals are subsidized by Government and have 40, 32, 31 and 54 beds respectively. Each hospital has an out-patient department.

Of the nine Government Hospitals, four are staffed by European Nursing Sisters with a subordinate African Staff, while five are staffed by Trained African Nurses and African Staff. All hospitals are equipped for general medical and surgical work. The Maseru Hospital is recognized by the South African Medical Council for the training of interns and by the High Commission Territories Nursing Council for the training of nurses and midwives of which there are at present 18. The Maseru Hospital also provides for the training of Health Assistants and Dispenser-Anaesthetists. The erection of the new Maseru Hospital (see under Colonial Development and Welfare Scheme No. D. 842) is important in view of the necessity of obtaining trained personnel for the Territory.

The Morija Hospital is recognized by the Basutoland Executive Nursing Committee as a training centre for nurses and has at present 8 student nurses.

Hospital facilities are still inadequate and applications have been made under Colonial Development and Welfare Schemes for additional accommodation to be provided at all Government hospitals, particularly for tuberculosis and maternity cases and for children.

2. HEALTH CENTRES, MOUNTAIN DISPENSARIES  
AND RURAL TREATMENT CENTRES

Health Centres and Mountain Dispensaries are establishments built and maintained by Government for the purpose of giving medical out-patient facilities to people in remote areas, the health centres being staffed, where possible, by an African health assistant and dual certificated African nurse, and the mountain dispensaries by a dual certificated trained African nurse only. The Rural Treatment Centres are similar establishments being built under the Deferred Pay Interest Fund (non-government) and will be in the charge of a dual certificated Trained African nurse paid by Government.

The Health Centre at Phamong is functioning well with an African Health Assistant in charge.

The Health Centre at Semonkong was opened in September, 1953, with the appointment of Dr. K. M. Franziss as Assistant Medical Officer and the purchase of existing buildings.

The erection of two more Health Centres at Mashai and Marakabei has been postponed until more favourable conditions exist (see Part I, Chapter II, Development Schemes).

The Mountain Dispensary at Nohana's is functioning well with a Trained African Nurse in charge. The others have not yet been erected (see Part I, Chapter II, Development Schemes.)

The two Rural Treatment Centres at Linakeng and Tumane's are still unfinished owing to labour difficulties.

At several centres there are Red Cross Committees organized for the purpose of giving lectures and demonstrations to the public in Elementary First Aid, Public Health and Elementary Midwifery. These lectures are very popular and the results are gratifying.

### 3. THE LEPER SETTLEMENT

The Leper Settlement with a Medical Officer in charge, assisted by a European Hospital Matron, a European Sister and two African Trained Nurses provides hospital facilities with 54 beds. Patients are received from Basutoland and from the Bechuanaland Protectorate. Although the general health of patients continues to improve with the use of sulphone therapy and many are cured, several years of treatment are required before a leper can be discharged. There were 55 new admissions during the year and, in addition, 28 cases were readmitted, mostly for broken down ulcers. Discharges totalled 52 and 569 patients remained at the end of the year among whom are about 150 old arrested cases, crippled, helpless and without a home. They are allowed to remain at the Settlement indefinitely. The Medical Officer spent six weeks in Nigeria observing methods of treating leprosy in that territory with a view to dealing more effectively with the problem of leprosy in Basutoland.

### 4. MENTAL DETENTION CENTRE

There is no mental asylum in Basutoland. In the past, Basuto lunatics were treated in asylums in the Union of South Africa and 36 cases are still hospitalized there. At present, however, accommodation can rarely be obtained. As a matter of urgency a temporary Mental Detention Centre was established at Mohale's Hoek for dangerous lunatics. This arrangement supplies an urgent need until a mental hospital in the charge of a Medical Officer, trained in modern psychiatric treatment, can be provided. The Detention Centre at Mohale's Hoek presents two advantages as compared with the admission of lunatics to Union asylums in that it permits lunatics to be visited by relatives and facilitates the discharge to their homes of patients whose condition is restored to health or much improved. The Medical Officer at Mohale's Hoek is using convulsive therapy in a few selected cases. There were 46 new admissions, and 25 discharges; at the end of the year there were 93 patients being cared for. Efforts are being made to obtain assistance under a Colonial Development and Welfare Scheme to establish a new Mental Hospital which would care for patients from the three High Commission Territories.

## 5. EPIDEMIC AND GENERAL DISEASES

There were no major epidemics reported during the year under review.

*Plague and Typhus*

No cases were reported.

*Smallpox*

No cases of smallpox was reported. 656 vaccinations were given.

*Diphtheria*

There continued to be sporadic outbreaks of diphtheria throughout the year and during the course of dealing with these epidemics 24,622 prophylactic inoculations were given. There were 349 cases reported with 99 deaths compared with 428 cases and 90 deaths in 1952.

1,994 inoculations were given on request for immunization.

*Typhoid fever*

Typhoid fever is endemic throughout the year and 225 cases with 29 deaths were reported. In 1952 there were 177 cases with 24 deaths. As prophylactic measures (e.g. in prisons) and in dealing with outbreaks, a total of 13,463 T. A. B. inoculations were given.

*Measles*

Measles is fairly prevalent and 1,379 cases were notified.

*Whooping cough*

1,688 cases were notified. Penumonia is a frequent complication in whooping cough and measles and accounts for a number of deaths in children. The population is becoming aware of the dangers of whooping cough, 387 inoculations of combined whooping cough and diphtheria were given.

*Deficiency Diseases*

Pellagra, ariboflavinosis and kwashiorkor have for the first time been regarded as separate entities and questionnaires completed in respect of these three diseases. The results are being compiled by the Liaison Officer, Applied Nutrition Unit.

There were 1,749 cases of pellagra with eight deaths, 240 cases of ariboflavinosis with four deaths and 162 cases of kwashiorkor with 25 deaths. No comparison can be made with previous annual returns except in the case of pellagra, as ariboflavinosis and kwashiorkor have not been returned as specific diseases before 1953. In 1952 there were 2,012 cases of pellagra with 3 deaths.

911 cases of avitaminosis with seven deaths, and 506 cases of malnutrition with twelve deaths were reported in 1953.

The incidence of pellagra and kwashiorkor are closely allied to maize meal being the staple item of the diet and steps have already been taken to correct this by persuading the Basuto to substitute kaffir-corn and to consume more protein, which is available in the Territory now in the

form of wheat, beans, peas, and vegetables : there is already some evidence that wheat is entering more into the diet of the Basuto. The available supply of animal protein cannot be immediately increased.

### *Tuberculosis*

There were 670 cases of pulmonary tuberculosis with 57 deaths, compared with 459 cases and 32 deaths in 1952. In addition 362 cases of non-pulmonary tuberculosis were reported.

Isoniazid is fairly extensively used in the Territory, and a controlled test was carried out at Maseru in 27 cases of pulmonary tuberculosis. Three schemes of treatment were used, isoniazid alone, isoniazid + P.A.S. and isoniazid + P.A.S. + streptomycin. Judging solely on the results of treatment at the end of three months, isoniazid + P.A.S. seemed superior. On all forms of treatment 74 per cent of cases showed clinical improvement and gain in weight and 52 per cent returned a negative sputum at the end of three months.

### *Syphilis*

In April, 1953, the treatment of syphilis with procaine penicillin was commenced, and the heavy metals are no longer used as a matter of routine in the V. D. clinics. Results reached since April, 1953, at Leribe and Mafeteng have shown 46 per cent and 59 per cent attendances for the full course of injections and distances are considered to be the main reason for defaulting.

In the treatment of primary syphilis at Mafeteng, 94 per cent had healed lesions by the 11th day and in the treatment of secondary syphilis at Leribe 91 per cent were healed by the 17th day.

## 6. SANITATION

A four weeks' survey of flea and rodent activity in certain mountain areas of Basutoland, including the Orange river valley, was undertaken jointly by the Basutoland and Union Health Departments, in order to complete a general survey of rodents and fleas of Southern Africa, and thus trace reservoirs of enzootic plague. A final survey, in the lowlands of Basutoland, is planned for 1954. Full results of the mountain survey are not yet available, but it is interesting to note that several specimens of the ice rat, *Myotomys*, were collected; this rat is rare in the Union of South Africa.

The protection of village springs has progressed in spite of difficulties of transport and equipment; 14 new springs were built up and 10 old ones were cleaned out and repaired. New public latrines were built in African villages at Maseru, Mafeteng, Leribe, Butha-Buthe, Teyateyaneng and Qacha's Nek. Plans for new houses, shops and warehouses were passed to the Medical Department for comments on details of hygiene. During the year 1,509 carcasses were inspected at the Maseru abattoir; 7 whole carcasses and 267 organs were condemned mainly for parasitic infestation.

## GOVERNMENT HOSPITALS

District	In-patients admitted to hospital	Operations		Outpatients treated in Dispensaries			Ante-Natal Clinics		
		Major	Minor	First Attend- ances	Subsequent Attend- ances	Injections for Syphilis	Total	First Attend- ances	Subse- quent Attend- ances
Maseru . . . . .	3,944	273	593	21,573	11,032	4,421	37,026	1,388	1,771
Leribe . . . . .	1,385	145	857	17,864	3,848	3,115	24,827	544	525
Mafeteng . . . . .	1,692	120	675	18,877	2,699	3,985	25,561	328	310
Mohale's Hoek . . . . .	411	72	354	11,192	1,557	3,357	16,106	301	461
Qacha's Nek . . . . .	7	58	142	6,415	214	2,068	8,697	123	177
Quthing . . . . .	714	37	337	14,321	9,319	5,539	29,179	109	20
Berea . . . . .	659	32	372	20,913	1,694	4,232	26,739	not available	182
Mokhotlong . . . . .	465	13	109	6,638	7,168	1,538	15,344	83	not available
Butha-Buthe . . . . .	516	59	821	13,315	2,460	1,205	16,980	not available	59
Semonkong Health Centre	0	6*	45	2,543	1,805	912	5,260	140	59
Totals . . . . .	10,361	815	4,305	133,651	41,796	30,372	205,819	3,016	3,505

\*Domiciliary maternity cases.

## MISSION HOSPITALS

Hospital	In-Patients admitted to hospital	Operations		Out-patients treated in Dispensaries			Total
		Major	Minor	First Attendances	Subsequent Attendances	Injections for Syphilis	
Roma . . . . .	874	31	226	5,033	2,829	3,114	10,976
Paray (Ntaote's) . . . . .	849	25	85	6,627	1,170	1,119	8,916
Maluti (Mapoteng) . . . . .	1,270	198	358	5,123	2,832	60	8,015
Scott (Morija) . . . . .	741	18	238	12,139	626	3,760	16,525
Totals . . . . .	3,734	272	907	28,922	7,457	8,053	44,432

### III. HOUSING

The Basuto live in small scattered villages under tribal authority and their huts are, on the whole, healthy if primitive. They are usually built of rough stone or of sods and are roofed with thatching grass or in some areas in the mountains with wheat straw. The floors are smeared by the women with mud and cow dung and frequently the inner and outer walls are treated the same way. The walls are often decorated with traditional designs in various colours.

The traditional hut is circular in shape but nowadays many Basuto prefer to build rectangular huts which are in some cases roofed with corrugated iron. The wealthier people build houses of cut stone or of brick and buy stock size doors and glazed windows.

In the old days it was the custom for each man to build and thatch his own house but many of the younger generation have no knowledge of building. They are, therefore, compelled to hire others to do this work for them.

If a man wishes to build he asks his chief or headman for a site. Any building he may erect remains his property unless he leaves the village, in which case the chief may allocate it to some other person but at no charge. The original owner is, however, allowed to remove the doors and windows if he wishes to do so.

There are no factories or industrial undertakings, except two printing works, in Basutoland and the problem of housing industrial workers has not therefore arisen.

The small European population consists for the most part of civil servants, missionaries and traders, and is as a rule well housed in buildings of local cut stone. Since the war, however, Government departments and commercial enterprises have expanded and a number of houses in Maseru have been built of brick since it is quicker and cheaper to build with than stone.

During the year a total of seven European houses was either completed or under construction, five of these in Maseru, one at Mohale's Hoek and one at Quthing. The following African houses were either completed or nearing completion at the end of the year :

Maseru . . . . .	6 houses (2 for Police)
Teyateyaneng . . . . .	3 houses
Leribe . . . . .	1 house
Mafeteng . . . . .	2 houses
Qacha's Nek . . . . .	1 house

#### IV. SOCIAL WELFARE

Since the Basuto live in small scattered village communities and there are no towns or industrial undertakings where workers of the poorer class are concentrated, there are no slums and no problems arising out of urban conditions.

Much valuable work is being done throughout the Territory by the Basutoland Homemakers' Association and youth movements such as Scouts and Guides.

The Basutoland Homemakers' Association was founded in 1945 after several Homemakers' Clubs had been formed in the Territory under the auspices of the Home Improvement Association at Fort Hare in the Union of South Africa. These clubs then joined the local Association which now comprises over 150 clubs. Membership is almost entirely confined to Basuto housewives. The objects of the Association are largely concerned with advising and helping housewives with their day to day work in the home; this help and advice is aimed at the proper feeding of the family, maintaining cleanliness in and around the house, improving members' knowledge of sewing, keeping alive the indigenous crafts such as pottery, grass work and wall decorations and also upholding Christian standards in the home. The Association has had another successful year and at the annual training course there were 150 delegates present. Mrs. B. T. Mohapelo, B. E. M., has been President of the Association since its inception and much of the excellent work already accomplished can be attributed to her.

The Boy Scouts' Association had a bright year although there was a drop in numbers when beginners without the Tenderfoot Badge were excluded from the census. The Queen's Scout Badge was gained by eight scouts, the first Africans to gain this distinction in Southern Africa. Scouts everywhere played a prominent part in Coronation Day festivities, particularly at all district headquarters. The Territorial Council continued with its policy of building up a cadre of trained scouts by sending as many scouters as possible for officer training.

The Girl Guide movement now comprises 90 Guide companies plus an Extension Company, and 53 Sunbeam Circles plus an Extension Circle. Both the Extension Company and the Extension Circle are at the Botsabelo Leper Settlement. There are also six Ranger Companies for older girls. Numbers generally seem to be increasing and units have been active. Coronation ceremonies were well attended. A training camp was held at Masite in the lowland area of Maseru district during November.

Community halls have been or are being built at all district headquarters. At each headquarters a committee of Africans was appointed to help the District Commissioner with the planning and building of the hall and to organize the activities which take place there. It is considered essential for the development of these halls as centres of social life that

the activities should spring from the efforts and wishes of the people themselves.

A community hall and library were completed in Maseru in 1948.

The Financial Secretary acted as Chairman of the Pensions Board and the Assistant Treasurer of the Executive Committee of the Basuto Soldiers' Benefit Fund.

The Pensions Board consists of four members :

Chairman (Financial Secretary)

Two Civilian Medical Officers

Representative of the Paramount Chief

The Board meets weekly to consider the applications of disabled ex-soldiers and to make awards.

Soldiers' pensions vary between a maximum of £50 per annum to a volunteer with a 100 per cent disability and £10 per annum for a 20 per cent disability, with appropriate increases for a wife and each child. A widow receives £30 per annum and £10 per annum extra for each child. Men whose degree of disablement is assessed at less than 20 per cent receive a gratuity, the amount of which depends on the duration of the disablement.

The Basuto Soldiers' Benefit Fund was established out of contributions received from the Basutoland War Levy, the Governor-General's War Fund, and P. R. I. Funds of the contingents who served in the Middle East. The Fund totalled £24,873.

Applications for assistance are first considered by District Welfare Boards and are then passed with the Board's recommendation to the Executive Committee of the Fund.

During the financial year 1952-53, 96 applications were considered by the Executive Committee and 43 awards were made. These comprised 17 for educational purposes and 26 for other assistance, largely for rehabilitation, maintenance and relief of ex-soldiers and their dependants. £1,702 was paid out of the Fund during the year, consisting of £234 for educational awards, £1,430 for other assistance and £38 for administration and incidental expenses.

## CHAPTER EIGHT

## LEGISLATION

The following is a list of the more important legislation enacted in 1953.

1. Proclamation No. 45 of 1953. The Basutoland Native Tax (Amendment) Proclamation, which alters the year in respect of payment of native tax from the financial year to the calendar year with effect from 1st January, 1954.
2. Proclamation No. 48 of 1953. The Basutoland Education (Amend-

ment) Proclamation, which provides a proper procedure for the closing and re-opening of schools.

3. Proclamation No. 60 of 1953. The Basutoland Regulation of Advertisements Proclamation, which provides for regulating and controlling the publication of advertisements relating to medicine and medical treatments.
4. High Commissioner's Notice No. 150 of 1953. Wool and Mohair Marketing and Export Regulations, which provide detailed instructions on the classing and packing of wool and mohair. These regulations were promulgated under the provisions of Proclamation No. 1 of 1952, to which reference was made in last year's report.

## CHAPTER NINE

# JUSTICE, POLICE AND PRISONS

## I. JUSTICE

In criminal matters the High Court and Subordinate Courts are governed by the Criminal Procedure and Evidence Proclamation. This Proclamation follows the criminal law in force in the Union of South Africa.

In civil matters, except where native law and custom is involved, the Roman Dutch Common law in force in the Union of South Africa is followed.

This is so because in Basutoland the laws in force include those of the Cape of Good Hope up to the 18th March, 1884, except where repealed or altered by Proclamation by the High Commissioner. The Basutoland Courts of Law consist of :

### I. HIGH COURT

The High Court is a Superior Court of Record and, in addition to any other jurisdiction conferred by the local law, possesses and exercises all the jurisdiction, power, and authorities vested in the Supreme Court of South Africa.

Although the decision in every case, civil and criminal, is vested exclusively in the presiding Judge, he sits with four Assessors (two Administrative Officers and two Africans) who act in an advisory capacity.

In practice all four Assessors sit in every criminal trial and in every criminal appeal.

In civil cases the practice is for the Judge to sit alone where only law, other than native law and custom, and not fact is involved. Where native law and custom is involved the Judge sits with all four Assessors or with two African Assessors only, depending on the character of each particular case.

There is no local Court of Appeal and appeals go direct to the Judicial Committee of the Privy Council.

## 2. SUBORDINATE COURTS OF THE FIRST, SECOND, AND THIRD CLASS

In the nine districts of the Territory there are Subordinate Courts of the First Class presided over by the District Commissioner of each district, and also Subordinate Courts of the Second and Third Class presided over by Assistant District Officers and Cadets, respectively. Appeals lie from all these Subordinate Courts to the High Court.

The powers of these Courts are as follows :

### (a) *Criminal*

(i) *First Class*: Can impose sentences up to a maximum of two years imprisonment with or without hard labour, or a fine up to one hundred pounds, or both imprisonment and fine, provided that the maximum imprisonment of two years is not exceeded. In certain cases and subject to certain safe-guards a whipping not exceeding fifteen strokes with a cane may be imposed.

(ii) *Second Class*: The maximum sentence is imprisonment with or without hard labour up to one year, or a fine not exceeding fifty pounds, or both imprisonment and fine, provided that the maximum sentence of one year is not exceeded. A whipping not exceeding eight strokes with a cane may be imposed in certain cases and subject to certain safe-guards.

(iii) *Third Class*: The maximum sentence is imprisonment with or without hard labour up to six months, or a fine not exceeding twenty-five pounds, or both imprisonment and fine, provided that the maximum sentence of six months is not exceeded. A Third Class Court cannot impose a sentence of whipping.

Subordinate Courts have no power to try a person charged with treason, murder, rape, sedition or an offence relating to coinage or currency, except that the Attorney-General may remit a rape case for trial by a Subordinate Court.

### (b) *Increased criminal jurisdiction*

The Attorney-General may remit a case (not being treason, murder, sedition or an offence relating to coinage or currency) to a Subordinate Court for trial with increased jurisdiction, after the holding of a preparatory examination. When so remitted with increased jurisdiction the powers of punishment are :

(i) *First Class*: Imprisonment up to four years ; fine not exceeding two hundred pounds.

(ii) *Second Class*: Imprisonment up to two years ; fine not exceeding one hundred pounds.

*Note :* There is no remittal to a Third Class Court and therefore no increased jurisdiction for such a Court.

(c) *Criminal Review*

In criminal cases all sentences by Subordinate Courts of the First Class are subject to review by the High Court when the punishment imposed exceeds six months' imprisonment or a fine exceeding fifty pounds.

As regards the Second and Third Class Subordinate Courts they are also subject to review by the High Court when the punishment imposed exceeds three months' imprisonment or a fine exceeding twenty-five pounds.

(d) *Civil*

In civil cases Subordinate Courts of the First Class have jurisdiction in all actions where both parties are Africans, subject to the right of such Courts to transfer cases to the Native Courts for hearing, and in all other actions where the claim or value of the matter in dispute does not exceed five hundred pounds, and of the Second Class where the matter in dispute does not exceed two hundred and fifty pounds. Third Class Subordinate Courts have no civil jurisdiction.

### 3. THE JUDICIAL COMMISSIONERS' COURTS

Judicial Commissioners have been appointed in terms of Proclamation No. 25 of 1950 to hear civil and criminal appeals from the Courts of the Paramount Chief. Formerly appeals from Basuto Courts were heard by District Commissioners, but they became so numerous that it was found essential to establish special courts to deal with them.

The function of these Courts is that of hearing civil and criminal appeals from Basuto Courts. Many of these appeals involve boundary disputes and in most of them native law and custom is involved.

On any appeal the Judicial Commissioner can reserve on his own motion, or on the application of either party, any question of law or native law and custom for decision by the High Court.

From the decisions of a Judicial Commissioner on appeals from Basuto Courts there is a further right of appeal to the High Court, with the leave of the Judicial Commissioner, or, if this is refused, with the leave of the High Court.

Since a Judicial Commissioner has the power and jurisdiction of a First Class Subordinate Court, he is able to, and does from time to time, preside over First Class Subordinate Courts in districts, thereby assisting District Commissioners.

## 4. BASUTO COURTS

The recognition and grant of special powers and jurisdiction to Basuto Courts is contained in the Native Courts Proclamation, Chapter six of the Laws of Basutoland. There are 62 courts which fall under the following categories :

- (a) "B" Courts or courts of first instance, of which there are 46. Their jurisdiction in criminal cases is limited to a fine of £15 and/or 3 months' imprisonment with or without hard labour : in civil cases they have jurisdiction in all actions where the claim or value of the matter in dispute does not exceed £250.
- (b) "A" Courts or Basuto Courts of Appeal, of which there are 12. Their jurisdiction in criminal cases is limited to a fine of £25 and/or 6 months' imprisonment with or without hard labour. In stock theft cases only, this jurisdiction is increased to one year's imprisonment with or without hard labour. In civil cases they have jurisdiction in all actions where the claim or value of the matter in dispute does not exceed £500.
- (c) Central Appeal Courts or Higher Basuto Courts of Appeal, of which there are four. Their jurisdiction in criminal cases is limited to a fine of £50 and/or two years' imprisonment with or without hard labour. In civil cases there is no limit to the amount of the claim or matter in dispute in respect of their jurisdiction. Appeals from these courts go to the Judicial Commissioner's Court. Three of these courts are sited at Matsieng, Leribe and Mohale's Hoek, while the fourth is a circuit court serving the mountain districts of Qacha's Nek and Mokhotlong.

These courts are established by a warrant issued by the Resident Commissioner with the approval of the High Commissioner, and may exercise civil and criminal jurisdiction to the extent set out in their warrants. They have no jurisdiction over any parties other than Natives as defined in the General Interpretation Proclamation, Chapter two of the Laws of Basutoland. They deal mainly with offences against Sesuto Law and Custom and infringements of the Paramount Chief's orders, and with civil disputes.

Before April, 1946, there were 1,300 courts run by unpaid officials, and all the fines imposed were taken by the Chiefs as a perquisite of their position, a practice which was obviously open to abuse. When the National Treasury was inaugurated on the 1st April, 1946, the number of courts was reduced to 106 and paid court officials were employed. The revenue derived from court fines and various fees is now paid into the National Treasury.

The number of courts has been further reduced to 62 as shown above. In effecting this reduction care was taken to site the courts at centres

which will be convenient and within easy reach of the majority of the people. The new court staffs have been carefully selected and were only appointed after a course of training.

Chiefs still retain the right to act as arbitrators in civil disputes where both parties are prepared to have the dispute settled out of court.

## JUDICIAL AND LEGAL DEPARTMENTS

With the Subordinate Courts presided over by District Commissioners and the work of the Registrar of the High Court being done by the Legal Secretary, the general outlook in Basutoland has been to regard the Courts as part of the Administration and not distinct from it. During the year re-organization was commenced to create a separate Judicial Department.

### I. JUDICIAL DEPARTMENT

This department is headed by the Chief Justice, who is also Chief Justice of the Bechuanaland Protectorate and of Swaziland. He is resident at Maseru in Basutoland because there is more High Court work in Basutoland than in each of the other two Territories.

Under the Chief Justice there are the Judicial Commissioner, the Registrar, High Court, and the various Presiding Officers of the Subordinate Courts – that is the District Officers and Assistant District Officers in their judicial capacity.

During the year under review the following statistics are of interest :

#### (a) *High Court*

In criminal trials ninety-nine persons were indicted of whom ninety-eight were eighteen years or over and one under eighteen years. There were ninety-nine charges against those persons of which eight were withdrawn. There were convictions on forty-eight and acquittals on forty-three of those charges ; twenty-four persons were convicted of the crime known as “medicine murder” and four persons of murder, as opposed to medicine murder.

Criminal review cases from Subordinate Courts totalled two hundred and thirty nine.

There were sixty-one criminal appeals of which fifty-one were dismissed, nine were allowed and one sent back for re-hearing.

There were twenty-eight civil cases of which twenty-three were disposed of and five were pending at the end of the year.

Civil appeals from Subordinate Courts totalled seventeen of which nine were dismissed, two were allowed and six were pending at the end of the year.

*(b) Judicial Commissioner's Court*

There have been two Judicial Commissioners in the past, but during the whole of 1953 only one was available.

The number of appeals heard by Judicial Commissioners during the preceding five years has been :

1948	1949	1950	1951	1952
387	351	159	252	362

Including twenty-one criminal appeals pending at the end of 1952 and eighty filed during the year, there were one hundred and one criminal appeals. Of these fifty were dismissed, thirty allowed, leaving twenty-one pending hearing at the end of 1953.

Including one hundred and eighty-four civil appeals pending at the end of 1952 and three hundred and nine filed during the year, there were four hundred and ninety-three civil appeals. Of these two hundred and thirty-eight were dismissed, fifty-nine allowed, fourteen sent back for re-hearing, leaving one hundred and eighty-two pending hearing at the end of 1953.

*(c) Subordinate Courts*

In criminal cases 4,627 persons were charged of whom one hundred and four were under eighteen years of age. There were convictions on 4,054 and acquittals on 607 of those charges. Most of the charges were in respect of offences (other than murder) against the person, stock theft, offences other than stock theft against property, liquor and drug offences.

Including those pending at the end of 1952, and those registered in 1953, there were five hundred and twenty-seven civil cases of which two hundred and eighty-seven were heard. The reason the remainder were not heard is that the parties did not set them down for hearing.

## 2. LEGAL DEPARTMENT

This department is headed by the Attorney-General who is a practising member of the Johannesburg Bar. He is attached to the High Commissioner's Office where he is a Legal Adviser to the High Commissioner. Since July, 1953, he has been assisted by Crown Counsel who is a member of the Colonial Legal Service. The following posts in Basutoland are combined in one person :

*Legal Secretary*

The Legal Secretary is the local Legal Adviser to the Government. His duties include deeds registration, legislative drafting, Master of the High Court, Registrar of Births, Deaths and Marriages and Registrar of Trade Unions.

*Master of the High Court*

The duties of the Master of the High Court include the supervision of the administration of the estates of persons (other than tribal Africans)

who are deceased or who are lunatics, and also of the administration of all insolvent estates. He is also responsible for the administration of the Guardians' Fund.

### *Registrar of Births, Deaths and Marriages*

The Registrar of Births, Deaths and Marriages is responsible for the registration of births and deaths of persons other than Africans, under the Registration of Births and Deaths Proclamation (Cap. 86). During the year 30 births and 12 deaths were registered. He is also responsible for the registration of marriages under the Marriage Proclamation (Cap. 87). In terms of this Proclamation 1,966 marriages were registered during the year. This figure includes marriages by Africans, but not customary unions according to Sesuto Custom, except where parties to such customary unions have subsequently been married by Marriage Officers appointed in terms of the Marriage Proclamation.

## II. POLICE

### I. ADMINISTRATION

The Commissioner of the Basutoland Mounted Police is the Commanding Officer of the Force. He is responsible to the Resident Commissioner for its efficient administration.

The Commissioner is assisted at Police Headquarters by the Deputy Commissioner of Police as second-in-command of the Force, by a Superintendent as Staff Officer, by a Superintendent as officer in charge of the Police Training School and by a Superintendent in charge of the Criminal Investigation Division and Records Bureau.

For police administrative purposes the Territory is divided into five Divisions, which in turn comprise nine Districts. District commands coincide with Administrative District boundaries.

The Divisions are each commanded by a Superintendent, who also commands the District Police in his District, and is responsible to the Commissioner of Police for the efficient administration and working of his Division.

The remaining Districts contained within a Division are commanded by Superintendents or Assistant Superintendents of Police, who are responsible to their Divisional Commanders.

### 2. ESTABLISHMENT AND STRENGTH

The following shows the establishment and actual strength of the Force as at 31st December, 1953.

*Europeans*

<i>Rank</i>	<i>Establishment</i>	<i>Strength</i>
Commissioner . . . . .	1	1
Deputy Commissioner . . . . .	1	1
Superintendents and Assistant Superintendents . . . . .	14	13
Total Commissioned Ranks . . . . .	16	15

*Africans*

<i>Rank</i>	<i>Establishment</i>	<i>Strength</i>
Senior Inspector . . . . .	1	1
Sergeant Major . . . . .	1	—
Staff Sergeants . . . . .	7	3
Sergeants . . . . .	15	16
Corporals . . . . .	31	24
Lance Corporals . . . . .	—	26
Troopers . . . . .	293	259
Total Inspectorate and Non-Commissioned Ranks . . . . .	348	329

*Civilian Employees*

<i>Rank</i>	<i>Establishment</i>	<i>Strength</i>
Lady Clerk (European) . . . . .	1	1
Farriers (African) . . . . .	1	1
Saddlers (African) . . . . .	5	5
Total . . . . .	7	7

## 3. TRANSPORT

The Force has an establishment of 11 motor trucks, 287 riding horses and 86 pack animals.

#### 4. POLICE TRAINING SCHOOL

The Training Depot, which is situated at Walker's Camp on the outskirts of Maseru, is commanded by a Superintendent. He has a staff of one Sergeant, one Corporal, and three Troopers, one of whom is a driver and another a trumpeter. In addition to recruits' courses, each normally of six months' duration, refresher, promotion and prosecutors' courses are held as often as possible for Non-Commissioned-Officers and Senior Troopers.

During the year 16 recruits completed their training and were posted to Divisions, four resigned at their own request and four were discharged : there were 11 recruits undergoing training at the end of the year.

In addition to the normal recruits' courses, four other courses were held for a total number of fifty-four Non-Commissioned-Officers and Other Ranks. Prosecutors' courses were held for the first time and included personnel from the Swaziland Police and the Bechuanaland Protectorate Police Force.

#### 5. CRIMINAL INVESTIGATION DIVISION AND RECORDS BUREAU

The Division is commanded by a Superintendent directly responsible to the Commissioner. The African establishment is one Sergeant, three Corporals, and seven Troopers, who besides staffing the Bureau are available for special investigations. This Division is responsible for the proper performance of Criminal Investigation Division duties within the Territory, and to assist all stations in the prevention and detection of crime. With the exception of records of Africans tried in some of the Basuto Courts, the dockets of all well known criminals and persons convicted of serious crime are maintained at the South African Police Bureau, until the local Bureau is properly established. The Criminal Investigation Division is also responsible for the proper presentation of cases for the consideration of the Attorney General, and for their final preparation for the High Court.

Fingerprint slips received from Basutoland Mounted Police Districts numbered 670. These were classified and filed. 37 fingerprint dockets were opened during the year. Persons fingerprinted were all Africans.

#### 6. WORK OF THE POLICE

##### (a) *Border Posts*

The Force is responsible for manning 26 Border Posts, which have an establishment of three Non-Commissioned-Officers and 54 Troopers. They are mainly occupied with customs duties, the collection of revenue,

and enforcement of Government regulations dealing with the export and import of livestock and grain.

(b) *Patrolling*

149,855 man miles were covered during the year by 4,674 patrols. A total of 5,275 members of the rank and file were dispatched on mounted patrols. A large proportion of the above mileage was performed during the course of criminal investigations. 85,021 miles were covered by police motor vehicles.

(c) *Mountain Stations*

Eight mountain posts have been operating on full or part strength throughout the year. They continue to serve the public in the hinterland, and assist the police in the initial stages of investigations. These stations are manned by twelve Non-Commissioned-Officers and 46 Troopers. However, lack of communications between these stations and their detachment headquarters restricts their efficiency to a certain extent.

## 7. CRIME

The contraventions or alleged contraventions of the Laws of the Territory reported to the Police during 1953 numbered 8,417. This figure excludes 582 pending at the close of 1952. They were disposed of as follows :

Sent for trial . . . . .	3,730
Transferred to Basuto Courts . . . . .	3,393
Withdrawn before arrest or issue of process . . . . .	376
Undetected . . . . .	518
Found false on enquiry . . . . .	353
Not completed during the year . . . . .	629
Total . . . . .	8,999

The following table shows the number of persons proceeded against with results :

Persons prosecuted . . . . .	6,795
Persons summarily convicted . . . . .	3,771
Persons transferred to Basuto courts . . . . .	2,365
Persons convicted in superior courts . . . . .	47
Persons remaining on remand . . . . .	208
Persons acquitted in superior courts . . . . .	59
Nolle prosequi in superior courts . . . . .	16
Persons found insane . . . . .	2
Persons discharged on merits in subordinate courts . . . . .	275
Persons discharged for want of prosecution in subordinate courts . . . . .	52

The following table shows the number of persons convicted for various crimes during the last nine years :

<i>Subordinate Courts</i>	1945	1946	1947	1948	1949	1950	1951	1952	1953
Offences against Person. . .	298	485	476	490	401	421	461	440	367
Offences against Property . .	433	594	416	558	594	707	1197	777	1216
Offences against liquor laws .	44	61	81	66	77	140	119	124	172
Other crimes .	824	834	984	1012	1069	1212	1610	2239	2016
	1599	1974	1957	2126	2141	2480	3387	3580	3771
<i>Superior Courts</i>	1945	1946	1947	1948	1949	1950	1951	1952	1953
Murder . . .	5	8	35	48	7	30	13	33	25
Culpable Homicide	12	21	31	14	7	—	2	14	16
Attempted Murder	2	—	3	—	—	—	3	—	—
Rape . . .	2	4	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
Other offences against the Person . . .	—	8	6	1	4	—	2	—	—
Offences against Property with violence to Person . . .	—	—	—	—	—	—	3	—	—
Other offences against Property .	—	—	4	—	1	3	4	1	6
Other Crimes .	—	—	1	—	—	—	—	—	—
Grand Total .	1620	2015	2037	2189	2160	2513	3414	3628	3818

The number of convictions for 1953 shows an increase of 190 over the figures for the previous year.

The increase in convictions under offences against property is almost entirely due to a greater number of convictions for stock theft and common theft.

#### 8. MEDICINE MURDER

Medicine Murder, as in previous years, was the most serious crime with which the Police had to contend.

Thirteen cases were reported during the year, in addition to which two cases reported previously were re-opened for further investigation as a result of more information being obtained. These were the third highest figures reported during any one year, a decrease of one case from the previous year.

Three cases were sent for trial before the High Court during the year. In one, which was reported the previous year, all the accused were acquitted, and in the other two, which were reported during the year, seven accused were convicted. In addition, three cases, one of which was reported in 1952 and the other two in 1953, had been committed for trial at the end of the year.

Of the cases reported during the year, eight were still under investigation at the end of the year ; of these four were reported in the last quarter.

A very large proportion of the time and resources of the Force was devoted to investigating these cases and bringing the offenders to justice.

### 9. STOCK THEFT

Despite the heavy burden of work imposed on the Police in the investigation of medicine murder cases, two large scale stock theft drives were organized and undertaken during the year.

The first drive was in the mountain areas of the southern districts in May, and was carried out by co-ordinated police patrols from three Districts assisted by the Native Authority. As a result of this drive, 47 cases were brought to Court.

The second drive, which was on a larger scale, operated in the mountain areas of the northern and eastern districts in September, and was carried out by co-ordinated police patrols from five districts, assisted by the Native Authority. As a result of this drive, which operated in difficult conditions owing to heavy snowfalls in the mountains, 212 cases were brought to Court. A total of 659 head of large stock and 1,626 head of small stock was seized by the patrols.

## III. PRISONS

The establishment of the Prison Service provides for a Superintendent and an Assistant Superintendent of Prisons, 12 Gaolers, 80 Warders and nine Technical Instructors.

There are ten prisons in the Territory, one in each district headquarters, except at Maseru where there is the Old Gaol, which is used only for condemned prisoners, females and juveniles, and the new Central Prison which takes all male prisoners for Maseru district and all long-term prisoners from the other districts.

The building of the Central Prison is well advanced ; during the year the third wing has been completed externally and work on the inside is nearing completion. The house for the Senior Gaoler has been completed and occupied, and a start has been made on the fourth and final wing. Water borne sanitation has been installed.

Plans for the Central Prison include the building of workshops, hospital, laundry, visiting rooms and other facilities. When the Central Prison is completed, it will be possible to have complete segregation of recidivists and first offenders, males and females, the convicted and those awaiting trial. Young prisoners are now quartered in a separate yard of Maseru Old Gaol, but it is hoped to start a camp soon for these prisoners, consisting of permanent structures for sleeping accommodation, dining hall, etc.

During the year, 4,565 persons were committed to prison, of which 2,895 were sentenced to imprisonment. The daily average in prison was 894·4. Comparative figures for 1952 were, total committals 4,958, sentenced to imprisonment 3,279, daily average population 846·2.

Although there has been a decrease of 393 in the number of admissions, the daily average has risen due to the large number of long-term prisoners still serving their sentences.

In this Territory a person who has not been committed to prison previously is counted as a first offender although he may have been sentenced to sentences other than imprisonment. The number of persons admitted to prison during the year, who were known to have had previous convictions, was 659 compared with 583 in 1952 and 593 in 1951. The increase is probably due to more information being available as a result of the establishment of a finger print branch by the Basutoland Mounted Police.

#### I. DISCIPLINE

Remission of sentence for good conduct and industry to a maximum of one third may be earned by all prisoners, provided the sentence is not reduced to less than 30 days. Discipline has been good during the year. For breach of prison regulations there were 16 cases dealt with by sentences of additional imprisonment and two by loss of good conduct remission. Comparative figures for 1952 were 17 and 10 respectively.

30 prisoners escaped during the year, of whom 23 were recaptured,

On the 31st December, 1952, nine persons were in custody under sentence of death. During the year, a further 24 were sentenced to death. The outcome of cases was as follows :

Executed . . . . .	14
Sentence commuted to imprisonment . . . . .	7
Awaiting confirmation . . . . .	12
Total . . . . .	<hr/> 33

#### 2. HEALTH

The general health of prisoners throughout the year has been good. The daily average reporting sick was 8·29 of which a fair number were merely asking for laxatives. 131 prisoners were admitted to hospital and there were nine deaths, excluding executions. Comparative figures for 1952 were average reporting sick 9·6, admissions to hospital 202, deaths seven.

Diets are prescribed by regulations, but whenever the Medical Officer considers any increase in diet is necessary, this is provided.

There are no special Medical Officers appointed to prisons, but the Government Medical Officer of each station is required to see all admissions and sick prisoners at the Government Dispensary. He also inspects the prison and sees all prisoners weekly.

At Maseru the Medical Officer visits the prisons daily to see all sick prisoners and new admissions.

There are no hospitals or sick bays in any of the prisons. Prisoners requiring hospital treatment are admitted to the Government hospitals, where they occupy the ordinary wards, and are guarded day and night by prison warders. At the Central Prison, a hospital ward and dispensary will be built.

### 3. LABOUR

Prison labour is used for a variety of purposes. In outlying Districts this consists of the domestic work at the gaol and the general upkeep of District Headquarters. Prisoners are used to load and unload Government stores, to quarry and cart gravel for road repairs, for cleaning and gardening at hospitals, planting trees, cleaning streets, and sanitary work.

All gaols have gardens which supply most of the vegetables used in the gaol. In some cases these are augmented by supplies from the Maseru Gaol garden.

At Maseru, labour is supplied for street cleaning and the upkeep of hospital grounds, but most of the prisoners are employed in the various prison industries under the supervision of Technical Instructors. One of these is an agricultural instructor in charge of the prison garden ; there are also a tailor, a shoemaker, two mason builders, two carpenters, a blacksmith and a plumber.

The bulk of labour is used on building the new prison, under the direction of the technical instructors. This involves stone quarrying and dressing, brickmaking, the construction of doors and door frames, casting ventilators and lintels in concrete in addition to all the other building operations which are necessary. This work is done solely by the prisoners.

The large Maseru gardens have produced 143,664 lb. of vegetables during the year, which is an increase of 29,705 lb. on the previous year. A further large pumping plant has just been installed and this is expected to increase the yield considerably.

In addition to supplying the Maseru gaols, vegetables are delivered to the Leper Settlement, the Government and Discharged Soldiers' Hospitals and to the Teyateyaneng, Leribe and Butha Buthe gaols. Any surplus of vegetables is sold to the staff and the public, for which there is always a ready market.

All clothing for prisoners, except jerseys, is made by the tailoring department. This section has also undertaken work for other departments,

such as wind socks, typewriter covers, the manufacture of uniforms and other goods.

The leather work section is chiefly concerned with the manufacture and repair of prisoners' boots and sandals. Waist belts for the staff and other items of leather equipment are also made.

The blacksmiths are mainly occupied with the making and sharpening of tools for the masons and quarry party, and also the iron work for the new prison. They have, however, made some tools for other departments.

The gaol piggery is proving a success, both in the teaching of animal husbandry and the using of waste from the prisons' and gaol gardens. As a result of the sale of pigs, £55. 18s. 0d. has been paid to revenue during the year.

#### 4. SPIRITUAL WELFARE

There are no chaplains attached to prison but ministers of all denominations are allowed and encouraged to visit the prisons and to hold services or talk with prisoners on matters affecting their spiritual welfare. These ministers give their services voluntarily.

A supply of hymn books, prayer books, new testaments and bibles are available for use by prisoners of the various denominations.

#### 5. WOMEN PRISONERS

Women prisoners, except those serving very short sentences, are transferred from the outside prisons to Maseru, where there is a permanent staff of one female gaoler and six female warders.

As there are often no women prisoners in the smaller gaols, no permanent staff is employed. When there are females in custody, they are guarded by temporary female warders, often the wives of permanent warders.

During the year, 340 women were received into prison and of these 206 were sentenced to imprisonment either with or without the option of fines. Included in the total were 45 lunatics. 15 of the 340 received had previous convictions. Comparative figures for 1952 were total received 335, sentenced to imprisonment 217, lunatics 34.

The women prisoners of Maseru are employed on laundry work and cleaning at the Government Hospital and dispensary, making and repairing prison clothing, and on work in the prison garden such as weeding, planting and hoeing ; many of these duties are similar to what they would perform at their own homes.

## CHAPTER TEN

## PUBLIC UTILITIES AND PUBLIC WORKS

## I. PUBLIC UTILITIES

*Electricity*

The only electricity supply is at Maseru. It was operated by contractors on behalf of Government until 1953, when the Public Works Department assumed control. The supply is available for domestic and commercial purposes only and there are approximately 1,800 consumers. The current supplied is 220 volts A. C. The monthly tariff charges are :

First 15 units at . . . . .	1s. per unit
Next 15 units at . . . . .	9d. per unit
Next 70 units at . . . . .	6d. per unit
Balance at . . . . .	4d. per unit

The new power station is still in the course of construction and the old plant continued to function throughout the year.

*Water*

The lowlands of Basutoland border the hot and dry lands of the Orange Free State which are subject to severe droughts and extremes of heat and cold. The rainfall of these lowlands is fairly evenly distributed over about six months of the year, but seldom exceeds thirty inches at any one point.

Rivers in these lowlands carry enormous amounts of silt and hydraulic structures are therefore uneconomical to construct. This means that the water supply for Maseru, the capital, is subject to severe restrictions in times of drought, and the situation can become critical even in normally dry periods of weather, as water is pumped from the Caledon river which forms the boundary between Basutoland and the Orange Free State. Crude river water is stored at the water works to tide the town over these dry periods, but developments have been so rapid that the water supply position has had to be reviewed and it is now proposed to invest quite a considerable sum in constructing improvements to the existing system.

In the districts most water has been supplied from springs, but with the growth of the administrative centres, these supplies have proved inadequate and boreholes have been sunk to augment the spring supply. Boreholes do not have a high yield in the lowlands as they traverse the Stormberg and Beaufort Series of argillaceous shales, sandstones and grits, which are not good aquifers. The stage has now been reached where the reticulation system for all district camps is inadequate and plans are being drawn up to renew these mains and sink extra boreholes.

The African is becoming increasingly conscious of the need for a proper water supply, probably as a result of the progressive lowering of the water table and consequent drying up of springs by soil erosion and poor farming methods both of which evils are being tackled energetically in the Territory. It is intended that many small schemes for the supply of water to village communities will be put in hand as soon as the necessary planning work can be done.

## 2. PUBLIC WORKS

### *Buildings*

New building works proceeded slowly owing to the difficulty in recruiting suitable artisans. This is mainly due to our inability to compete with the high salaries offered in the Orange Free State goldfields area and the lack of suitable accommodation for European artisans in this Territory.

## CHAPTER ELEVEN

# COMMUNICATIONS

## 1. RAILWAYS

The Territory is linked with the railway system of the Union of South Africa by a short line from Maseru to Marseilles, on the Bloemfontein - Natal main line. From this junction it is possible to proceed by rail direct to Bloemfontein or Bethlehem, and from these junctions respectively to the cities of Cape Town and Johannesburg, and to Durban. One mile of the line is in Basutoland, The railway does not at any other point enter Basutoland, but runs along the boundaries of the Territory and goods are transported by road to and from the nearest railway station across the border.

The Road Motor Transport Department of the South African Railways runs regular services to the lowland districts.

## 2. ROADS

The main roads in the lowlands of Basutoland have evolved from a system of wagon tracks constructed in the early days in this Territory. Very little improvement has been made to the system over the years and the result is that most alignments are sub-standard for modern vehicular traffic, and the surfacing is poor and river crossings frequently hold up traffic after storms. These poor communications retard development and put

up costs and with this in view money was granted under the Colonial Development and Welfare programme for certain improvements to be made. The problem however is very far from being solved as the resources of the Territory are so limited and road construction involves considerable capital expenditure.

From these main roads there are minor roads leading towards the mountains and used by Traders, native buses and tourists. These roads are maintained by the Traders with financial assistance from Government, but the Trader is finding his task more and more onerous and some change in the system may become necessary.

The major part of Basutoland comprises rugged and inaccessible mountains where the only means of transport is on pack animals. The new mountain motor road runs from Maseru to a point 50 miles away and is the first road in this Territory constructed with a view to opening up these mountain ranges for closer administration and better development.

### 3. BRIDLE PATHS

There are approximately 1,600 miles of bridle paths in the Territory, which are now maintained by the Basuto Administration with advice from the Public Works Department.

### 4. AVIATION

There are only two recognized aerodromes in Basutoland and these are for the lightest type of aircraft. They are at Maseru, the capital, and Mokhotlong, the district headquarters in the Drakensburg mountains.

In addition there are a number of landing strips in the Territory used principally by traders for the transporting of merchandize to and from their stores.

### 5. POSTS

Basutoland post office administration is linked with that of the Union of South Africa, and maintains its own distinctive postage and revenue stamps. There is a full postal service in the lowlands whilst agencies are largely situated in the mountains where mail can only be carried by pack animals. The telephone and telegraph system at present is confined to the lowlands. A bi-weekly air mail service connecting Ladysmith (Natal) – Mokhotlong – Maseru is in operation to accelerate the disposal of mail for the mountain areas.

The policy of the Post Office, which is headed by a Controller of Posts and Telegraphs, is to consolidate and improve existing services until sufficient money is available to begin a planned system of expansion.

A new Post Office building at Quthing has been opened. It is expected

that the new Post Office building at Butha-Buthe will be completed early in the new year.

Three new postal agencies were established in the Quthing area during the year at Mohlakoana's, Mount Moorosi and Cutting Camp. The total number of Post Offices in the Territory at the end of the year totalled 62.

The Maseru telephone exchange has been overhauled during the year by replacing the old equipment with new and modern apparatus. The recabbling of Maseru township has been completed. The reconstruction of the Teyateyaneng – Butha-Buthe trunk line has reached mile 20.

There were 32 new subscribers connected to the existing telephone system during the year, whilst a self-contained inter-departmental automatic exchange was also installed at the Government Secretariat in Maseru.

The appointment of an additional telephone electrician has resulted in a great improvement in the speed with which maintenance repairs and extensions to the existing system can be effected. The successful employment of African women as telephonists has justified their permanent employment and two further posts have been filled by African females; one is stationed at Leribe and the other at Maseru.

The volume of business transacted at Basutoland Post Offices continues to increase. The following statistics are of interest :

<i>Heading</i>	<i>1951-52</i>	<i>1952-53</i>
Post Offices and Agencies No. . . . .No.	60	60
Postal Orders issued . . . . .No.	43,827	43,112
Postal Orders paid . . . . .No.	18,877	19,006
Money Orders issued. . . . .No.	41,235	37,630
Money Orders paid . . . . .No.	26,887	25,443
Savings Bank deposits . . . . .No.	20,184	20,955
Savings Bank Withdrawals . . . . .No.	63,107	70,375
Telegrams forwarded . . . . .No.	10,775	10,824
Telegrams received . . . . .No.	69,814	72,713
	13,755	12,221
	224,465	172,860
	25,017	24,300
	197,159	192,387
	74,794	105,431
	69,519	102,087

## CHAPTER TWELVE

## PRESS

At the beginning of 1953 there were three newspapers published weekly in the Territory. These were *Leselinyana*, printed at the Paris Evangelical Missionary Society printing works, *Moeletsi oa Basotho*, printed at the Roman Catholic printing works and *Mochochonono* printed at Maseru by the Bantu Press Ltd. All these papers are printed in Sesuto.

In May the publication of *Mochochonono* stopped due to a break down in the machinery, which has not yet been repaired. However, the Bantu Press Ltd. publish in Johannesburg a newspaper *Mphatlalatsane* mainly for the benefit of the Basuto community living there, but which is also distributed in Basutoland. Slip copies of special articles, particularly on agricultural, medical and educational subjects are obtained in bulk and distributed throughout the Territory in Sesuto.

The only English newspaper is the *Basutoland News*, a weekly publication which deals with the interests of the European Community. It is published in the Orange Free State at Ficksburg, a town on the border of Basutoland.

## PART III

### CHAPTER ONE

## GEOGRAPHY AND CLIMATE

### I. GEOGRAPHY

The Colony of Basutoland is an enclave within the Union of South Africa, its boundaries running with those of Natal Province to the East, Cape Province to the South, and the Orange Free State to the North and West. It lies between latitudes  $28^{\circ} 35'$  and  $30^{\circ} 40'$  South and longitudes  $27^{\circ} 30'$  East. It comprises an area of 11,716 square miles of which about one-quarter in the West is lowland country varying in height above sea level from 5,000 to 6,000 feet, the remaining three-quarters being highlands rising to a height of 11,000 feet in the Drakensberg Range, which forms the eastern boundary with Natal. The mountain ranges run from North to South and those in the central area, named the Maluti, are spurs of the main Drakensberg Range which they join in the North, forming a high plateau varying in height from 9,000 to 10,500 feet. It is this area, where two of the largest rivers of the Union, the Orange and the Tugela, and tributaries of the Caledon have their source, that has caused Basutoland to be called the "sponge" of South Africa.

The soils in the mountain area are of basaltic origin, and those in the lowlands are derived mainly from the underlying cave sandstone. In the lowlands the soil has been cropped continuously for upwards of 80 years. Due to the absence of fuel practically all of the cattle manure is burnt, so that little or no organic matter is returned to the land : thus, with the increasing population, both human and livestock, excessive demands have been made on the soil which has lost its structure and has become subject to serious erosion. The soils in the mountains have been brought into cultivation comparatively recently and are rich, though shallow. Owing to former uncontrolled grazing the areas situated above the arable land in many places became denuded of the grass cover, and the rush of surface water from those denuded areas caused serious gully erosion on the arable land situated below. The measures which have been and are being taken to control erosion and to restore and preserve the grass cover are described earlier in this report.

There are no large towns in Basutoland : the population of the capital, Maseru, is estimated to be approximately 4,000 persons.

## 2. CLIMATE

Rainfall is variable and averages approximately 28 inches a year over the greater part of the country. Most of it falls in the months from October to April, but there is normally no month which has less than half an inch. Serious droughts, like the one of 1948-49 are rare and there are a large number of perennial streams, not so many as existed some years ago. Unfortunately river discharge statistics show that most of this water is lost to Basutoland in the form of run-off. The deciding factors from an agricultural point of view are whether the rain comes at intervals suited to the growth of the staple crops and whether it comes in the form of short and heavy storms, running to waste and eroding the soil, or in steady, soaking showers. In the lowlands the temperatures vary from a maximum of 90 degrees or more in summer to a minimum that rarely drops below 20 degrees in winter : in the highlands the range is much wider and temperatures below zero are by no means unknown.

## CHAPTER TWO

## EARLY HISTORY

The Basuto as a nation did not come into prominence until 1818, when Moshesh, a minor chief of the Bakoena tribe in North Basutoland, gathered together the remnants of the various clans that had been scattered by the raids of the Zulu and Matebele.

The new nation went through many vicissitudes of fortune, first with the emigrant Boers of the Great Trek, and then with the British under General Cathcart in 1852. From 1856 until 1868 there was a series of wars with the Orange Free State burghers, and, being hard pressed and having lost a large portion of his country (now known as "the Conquered Territory"), Moshesh repeatedly sought the protection of the British Government.

His request was eventually granted, and the Basuto became British subjects in 1868. Part of the Proclamation issued by Sir Philip Wodehouse, the Governor of the Cape Colony, on 12th March, 1868, reads as follows :

"Now, therefore, I do hereby proclaim and declare that from and after publication hereof, the said tribe of Basuto shall be, and shall be taken to be British subjects, and the territory of the said tribe shall be, and shall be taken to be British territory."

The country remained in a very unsettled condition until it was annexed to the Cape Colony by an Act of the Cape Legislature, No. 12

of 1871, The Act expressly declared that the territory was not to be subject to the general laws of the Colony, and gave the Governor power to legislate for it by proclamation and to extend to it by proclamation any Cape Act not otherwise in force therein.

The people never took kindly to the Cape Colonial rule, and after various disturbances the Government of the Cape, in 1880, extended to Basutoland the provisions of the Cape Peace Preservation Act of 1878, which included a clause for the general disarmament of the Basuto. They refused to accept the terms and, after a war lasting nearly a year, an agreement was arrived at under which the Act was repealed and certain fines were paid by the Basuto.

Although outwardly peace was restored, there still remained several chiefs who would not submit, and it was eventually decided by the Government of Cape Colony to hand over the administration to the Imperial Government. This was effected by Order in Council of 2nd February, 1884, which was proclaimed and brought into force by Proclamation No. 75A of 18th March, 1884. This proclamation defined the boundaries of the Territory and restored it to the direct control of the Queen through Her Majesty's High Commissioner for South Africa.

## CHAPTER THREE

# ADMINISTRATION

### I. CONSTITUTIONAL AND ADMINISTRATIVE

The Territory is governed by a Resident Commissioner under the direction of the High Commissioner for Basutoland, the Bechuanaland Protectorate and Swaziland, the latter possessing legislative authority, which is exercised by proclamation promulgated in the Official Gazette. Until 1931 the office of the High Commissioner was held by the Governor-General of the Union of South Africa, but with the close of the Earl of Athlone's period of office the two posts were separated.

The executive posts of the Government, other than those of the Resident Commissioner and Government Secretary, are held by Heads of Departments and District Officers who are responsible to the Resident Commissioner for the good order and administration of their respective spheres. For administrative purposes the country is divided into nine districts under District Commissioners, stationed at Butha-Buthe, Leribe, Teyateyaneng, Maseru (the Capital), Mafeteng, Mohale's Hoek, Quthing, Qacha's Nek and the mountain station of Mokhotlong.

These districts are divided into wards and smaller areas presided over by principal chiefs, ward chiefs, chiefs, and headmen who are

responsible to the Paramount Chief in all matters relating to law and custom. All chiefs are hereditary and are descended from the house of Moshesh or from allied families.

Heads of Departments are the Financial Secretary, Director of Medical Services, Director of Livestock and Agricultural Services, Director of Education, Government Engineer and the Commissioner of Police. In 1947 the Prisons Department was separated from the Police and is now under the control of a Superintendent of Prisons.

A Judicial Commissioner was appointed in 1943 to deal with civil and criminal appeals from the Paramount Chief's Court, and a Registrar and Master of the High Court was appointed in 1944. A second Judicial Commissioner was appointed in 1950 in terms of Proclamation No. 25 of 1950. Both Judicial Commissioners now have power to hold criminal cases, in addition to civil cases, in all districts of the Territory, the idea being to relieve District Commissioners of some of their judicial work and to enable them to devote more time to their administrative duties.

## 2. AFRICAN ADMINISTRATION

Basutoland is an African territory without European settlers or land-owners and is governed under the system of "indirect rule". The Basuto owe allegiance to a single Paramount Chief under whom is a hierarchy of Chiefs and Headmen, a number of whom trace their descent to Moshesh (1785-1870), the founder of the Basuto nation, and are styled "The Sons of Moshesh". This feudal aristocracy claimed and exercised considerable powers and privileges.

An advisory body known as the Basutoland Council, constituted by Proclamation in 1910 and consisting of the Resident Commissioner as President, the Paramount Chief and 99 Basuto members, 94 of whom are nominated by the Paramount Chief and five by the Resident Commissioner, meets once a year to discuss matters affecting the domestic affairs of the Nation and to express its opinion on any draft laws and proclamations that may be laid before it by the President. It is the policy of the Government to consult the Paramount Chief and the Basutoland Council before Proclamations closely affecting the domestic affairs and the welfare of the Basuto people or the progress and development of the Basuto Administration are enacted.

In recent years developments of some political importance have taken place. In 1938 a Native Administration Proclamation and a Native Courts Proclamation were promulgated. The former recognized the Paramount Chief and his Subordinate Chiefs as an integral part of the Government of the Territory, defined their powers, and vested them with legal authority, while the latter extended similar recognition to the Basuto Courts and defined and extended their jurisdiction. Further developments were delayed by the outbreak of war, until, in accordance with resolutions passed at the 1943 session of the Basutoland Council, a District Council was established as an advisory and consultative body

in each of the nine districts into which the country is divided for administrative purposes. These District Councils give the people a voice in the management of local and national affairs. The majority of the members are elected by popular vote at local *pitsos* (assemblies) and two to five members of the Basutoland Council, resident in each District are nominated by the Paramount Chief to sit as District Councillors.

These District Councils meet once a year shortly before the session of the Basutoland Council and elect members who are nominated by the Paramount Chief for appointment to the Basutoland Council. At first each district elected one member only, making a total of nine members for the whole Territory. In 1948 the number was increased to four members per district with a corresponding reduction in the number of members not so elected. Both in the Basutoland Council and District Councils provision was made for the election of members to represent important sectional bodies such as the Agricultural Association, the Progressive Association, the Teachers' Association and the Basuto Traders. As a result of these changes 42 out of the 99 members of the Basutoland Council are now elected by popular vote and an important step has therefore been taken towards placing the Basuto Administration on to a more representative basis. Members of both the Basutoland Council and District Councils now hold office for three years. As a means whereby the Basutoland Council could be consulted when not in session, a Standing Committee, consisting of five of its own members elected by Council, was established and to this Committee, whose discussions are attended by the Resident Commissioner and Paramount Chief, all important questions are referred when Council is in recess. At the 44th Session of the Council it was recommended that three permanent advisers to the Paramount Chief should be elected by Council and effect has been given to this resolution, it being left to the Paramount Chief to choose the three advisers from a panel of eighteen elected by the Council.

A further necessary step in the development of the Basuto Administration, the establishment of a National Treasury, was taken in 1946. At the end of 1943 a Committee consisting mainly of Basuto was appointed to work out a scheme for the establishment of a National Treasury, and its proposals were published in a booklet which was widely distributed throughout the Territory. The proposals put forward were not confined to the establishment of a National Treasury, but included the reorganization of the Basuto Courts, entailing a reduction in their number from over 1,300 to about 130. Recently this number has been further reduced to 62 (see chapter nine).

It was also recommended that the long established practice of chiefs and others being remunerated by "eating" the fines their courts imposed and by the proceeds of the sale of unclaimed stray stock, which had led to abuse, should be abolished. It was proposed that chiefs and others engaged in carrying out the administrative, judicial and fiscal duties which are now undertaken by the Native Administration should be paid fixed allowances or salaries by the National Treasury into which would be paid all court fines and fees and the proceeds of the sale of stray stock. These

proposals were accepted by the Paramount Chief on the recommendation of the Basutoland Council in 1945.

The political and administrative reforms set out in the preceding paragraphs are regarded as essential preliminaries to undertaking any comprehensive scheme of development, if plans are to be carried out efficiently and economically with the good will and co-operation of the Basuto Authorities and the people, and if the social and economic advance made is to be of lasting value to the life of the community.

Nevertheless it was not to be expected that these major political changes, however necessary and beneficial in the main and in the long run, could be achieved without causing some dissatisfaction and disharmony amongst those most closely effected by them. It must, however, be recognized that such development is fraught with difficulties, as it must reconcile the need for increased participation and representation in the conduct of affairs with the oft-repeated pledge to support and make the best use of the chieftainship, in which the Basuto society and outlook remain deeply rooted.

## CHAPTER FOUR

### WEIGHTS AND MEASURES

The weights and measures in common use in the Territory are the British Imperial.

The Cape Act of 1858 which defines the standard of weights and measures according to the English Act of 1824 still applies in Basutoland in terms of Proclamation No. 4 of 1904.

## CHAPTER FIVE

### READING LIST

#### I. GENERAL

- The Basutos*, by Sir Godfrey Lagden, K.C.M.G., 2 volumes (Hutchinson).  
*History of the Basutos*, by D. F. Ellenberger and J. C. Macgregor.  
*The Basuto of Basutoland*, by E. A. T. Dutton (Jonathan Cape).  
*The Basutos or Twenty-three years in South Africa*, by Rev. Eugene Casalis.  
*The Basuto of Basutoland*, by A. Mabile.

*Basuto Traditions*, by J. C. Macgregor.

*Reminiscences*, by J. M. Orpen.

*Basutoland Records*, 1833–1868, by G. M. Theal, 3 vols.

*Fourteen Years in Basutoland*, by Rev. J. Widdicombe.

*The Basuto*, by Hugh Ashton (Oxford University Press, 1952).

*The Rise of the Basuto*, by G. Tylden (Juta, 1950).

## 2. GOVERNMENT PUBLICATIONS

*Report on the Financial and Economic Position of Basutoland*, Cmd. 4907 (H. M. Stationery Office).

*An Ecological Survey of the Mountain Area of Basutoland* (Crown Agents 1938).

*Explanatory Memorandum on the Basutoland National Treasury* (1944).

*How Basutoland is Governed*, by K. W. S. Mackenzie (1944).

*Judgment of Mr. Justice Lansdowne in 'Mantšebo vs. Bereng* (1943).

*The African and his Stock*, by R. W. Thornton, C.B.E. and W. G. Leckie, O.B.E. (1942).

*Anti-Erosion Measures and Reclamation of Eroded Land*, by R. W. Thornton, C.B.E. (1942).

*Five Years' Experimental Work on Wheat Production*, by H. C. Mundell (1942).

*Memorandum of Development Plans* (1946).

*Laws of Lerotholi* (Revised Edition, 1946).

*Memorandum on "The Adoption of Better Methods of Land Management and the Declaration of Agricultural Improvement Areas in Basutoland"*, by W. G. Leckie, O.B.E. (1945).

*Report on the Geology of Basutoland*, by G. M. Stockley (1947).

*Report of the Commission on Education in Basutoland* (The Clarke Report, 1946).

*Report on the Possibilities of the Development of Village Crafts in Basutoland*, by H. V. Meyerowitz.

*Forestry Aims in the High Commission Territories*, by O. B. Miller (1947).

*The Origin and History of the Basuto Pony*, by R. W. Thornton, C.B.E. and others.

*Basutoland Census*, 1946.

*Report on the Salaries and Conditions of Service in the Public Services of the South African High Commission Territories, 1947-48.*

*Memorandum on the Report on Salaries and Conditions of Service in the Public Services of the High Commission Territories.*

*Basutoland Medicine Murder: A report on the recent outbreak of "Liretlo" Murders in Basutoland, by G. I. Jones, Cmd. 82,09 (H.M. Stationery Office 1951).*

*Basutoland: Agricultural Survey, 1949-50, by A. J. A. Douglas, M.B.E. and R. K. Tennant.*





LEGEND

ROADS

BRIDLE PATHS

DISTRICT BOUNDARIES

TOWNSHIPS

VILLAGES

DISTRICT HEADQUARTERS

TRADING STATIONS



BASUTOLAND





# COLONIAL REPORTS

## ANNUAL REPORTS

BASUTOLAND	GOLD COAST	N. RHODESIA
BECHUANALAND	HONG KONG	NYASALAND
PROTECTORATE	JAMAICA	SARAWAK
BRITISH GUIANA	KENYA	SIERRA LEONE
BR. HONDURAS	FED. OF MALAYA	SINGAPORE
BRUNEI	MAURITIUS	SWAZILAND
CYPRUS	NIGERIA	TRINIDAD
FIJI	NORTH BORNEO	UGANDA

## BIENNIAL REPORTS

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DOMINICA	NEW HEBRIDES	TURKS AND
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